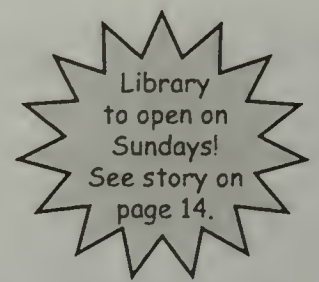




# Sheffield TIMES



Community News for Sheffield & Ashley Falls, MA SECOND GENERATION Vol. III, Issue 5 July/August 2004



The recently restored Howden Farm Bed & Breakfast off Rannapo Road in Ashley Falls

## SHEFFIELD'S BED & BREAKFASTS

People come to Sheffield to partake of cultural riches like Tanglewood and Barrington Stage. They come because it's a great place to hike or bike, antique or relax. Some come to visit children at Berkshire or Salisbury School or because their car is in the running at Lime Rock. They come to Sheffield because it's a beautiful town in a beautiful part of Massachusetts, and Sheffield's 10 bed and breakfasts are here to welcome them.

"Sheffield is being discovered," says Rick Kowarek, who with his partner, Nancy Hunter-Young, has owned Berkshire 1802 House for seven years. "But it's still very rural, and it's why we chose it over other towns."

Sheffield's inns offer just over 80 rooms for visitors. The establishments range in size from a single suite at Primrose Cottage in Ashley Falls to 32 rooms, suites, and cottages at Race Brook Lodge on Route 41. The box on page 3 provides a complete listing; check with each for details on amenities and policies on pets and minimum stays.

All include breakfast with the price of the room. Breakfasts typically feature fresh fruit and a unique specialty dish or two, such as gallettes and soufflés (Birch Hill Inn), apple-cheddar quiche (Staveleigh

House), pesto fritatta (Berkshire 1802 House), omelets made with eggs from the farm (Howden Farm), or praline French toast (Ramblewood Inn). At Primrose Cottage, you can eat on a private deck. At Racebrook Lodge, breakfast is served in a common room, with outdoor tables available in nice weather.

Racebrook Lodge additionally has a restaurant, under new management this summer. "Dan and Sue Smith of John Andrews are tried and true professionals," says Allegra Goodman, innkeeper for David Rothstein, the owner. "They'll do all the catering for us." Initially the restaurant will be open Thursday, Friday, and Saturday for dinner.

### Beautiful Old Houses

Many of Sheffield's inns are located in vintage buildings, often surrounded with gardens. Racebrook Lodge was once a barn, and it now incorporates the Stagecoach Hill Inn, once a separate establishment, where the rooms are a bit more stately. "We're less formal, more laid back than many places," says Goodman. "People feel very comfortable here. We have hammocks all over the property." With its large number of rooms and meeting rooms, Race-

brook Lodge gets about 35 percent of its business from retreats and other groups. The inn is featured in the July issue of "Country Living."

Birch Hill Inn is in its fourth season, but the building, formerly the Ivanhoe Country Inn, was built in the 1800s and early 1900s, and its large main room is paneled in chestnut. "We encourage people to put their feet up on a sofa," says Michael Advocate, who with his wife, Wendy, are the innkeepers.

Broken Hill Manor, a 1900s Edwardian-style manor house on acres of gardened grounds on West Rd., near the Great Barrington line, is "very tranquil and heavily antiqued," says Mike Farmer, who

*Continued on page 3*

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Bear on Salisbury Rd. He spent half an hour licking up every last seed from a backyard birdfeeder on Memorial Day. Take those birdfeeders in while bears are roaming!

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## Sheffield TIMES

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## THANK YOU!

To everyone who contributed this year to help keep the *Sheffield Times* going! To anyone we missed, we'll get you into the next issue. For those who still want to give, there is a contribution slip on the last page of each issue.

Barbara and Malcolm  
Bayliss  
Grace and Brady Brown  
Aiden Cassidy and Charles  
Teti  
Jean and Barry Emberlin

James and Donna Hurley  
Sue and Bob MacVeety  
C. M. Sica and Marcia  
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Edith and Loet Velmans  
Anonymous



opened the inn with Gaetan Lachance in 2000 after buying the property in 1996 and completely renovating it. "All you see here are trees and grass."

Primrose Cottage, run by a rustic-furniture maker (Tamarack Garlow) and florist (Jude Kent), is decorated in rustic style and always supplied with fresh flowers. "It's very quiet and very private," says Kent.

"Every bed and breakfast has its own clientele, based on its location but also on who the host is," says Bruce Howden, who has been running the Howden Farm B&B at his family's farm on Rannapo Rd. for five years, after running a B&B in Vermont for 15 years. The front of the building dates from 1839 and the back from the late 1800s. In the middle of pumpkin fields (the Howden Biggie pumpkin variety was developed here), the inn is "quiet and has fabulous views" of Mt. Everett and the Taconic Range.

Coming to a bed and breakfast is a "total experience," says Kowarek of Berkshire 1802 House, which had long been a boarding house on Main St. before its current life as a B&B. "We want to make their experience better." To that end, in addition to providing comfortable rooms and delicious breakfasts, innkeepers often act as local tour guides. "We really know the area well," says Kowarek. "We hike, kayak and cross-country ski, so if a guest is a hiker, we can tell them about hikes at their level of ability. We try to eat out at as many local restaurants as possible so we can send guests to our favorites. We tell them about the Farmers' Market of Sheffield—we love the market, it's good for us."

Not only are the inns welcoming to guests, they're welcoming to new innkeepers. "I can't say enough about the innkeepers in Sheffield," says Ali Winston of Staveleigh House, who bought the inn three years ago, renovated it, and started filling it with her collection of antiques. "They've been supportive and helpful and given me referrals." Staveleigh House was built as a resi-

#### A GUIDE TO B&Bs IN SHEFFIELD

**Berkshire 1802 House**, 48 S. Main St., 229-2612, [www.berkshire1802.com](http://www.berkshire1802.com)  
Nancy Hunter-Young & Rick Kowarek, innkeepers. Federal house with gardens in town; 7 rooms. \$95-155.

**Birch Hill Bed & Breakfast**, 254 S. Undermountain Rd., 229-2143, [www.birchhillbb.com](http://www.birchhillbb.com). Michael and Wendy Advocate, innkeepers. 1780 house on 20 acres with a lake across the road; 7, some with fireplaces; pool. \$110-195.

**Broken Hill Manor**, 771 West Rd., 528-6159, [www.brokenhillmanor.com](http://www.brokenhillmanor.com)  
Gaetan Lachance & Mike Farmer, innkeepers. Edwardian manor house on 12 acres; 8 rooms. \$125-200.

**Howden Farm**, 303 Rannapo Rd., 229-8481, [www.howdenfarm.com](http://www.howdenfarm.com)  
Bruce Howden, innkeeper. Country house on a pumpkin farm; 4 rooms. \$69-149.

**Primrose Cottage**, 935 Ashley Falls Rd. (7A), Ashley Falls, 229-3263, [primrosecottage@adelphia.com](mailto:primrosecottage@adelphia.com). Jude Kent & Tamarack Garlow, innkeepers. Cottage suite with private deck in New England village, \$90-135.

**Orchard Shade Bed & Breakfast**, 999 Hewins St., 229-8463, [www.orchardshade.com](http://www.orchardshade.com). Debbie & Henry Thornton, innkeepers. 1850 house furnished with antiques on a country road; 3 rooms. \$65-125.

**Racebrook Lodge**, 864 S. Undermountain Rd., 229-2916, [www.rblodge.com](http://www.rblodge.com)  
Allegra Goodman, innkeeper. Restored 1790s post & beam barn at the base of the Taconic Range; 32 rooms, suites, cottages; meeting and conference facilities, pool, restaurant. \$80-275.

**Ramblewood Inn**, 400 S. Undermountain Rd., 229-3363, [www.ramblewood-inn.com](http://www.ramblewood-inn.com). Nadine Hawver, innkeeper. Country log house in the pines; 6 rooms, one with kitchen, \$115-225.

**Sheffield Inn**, 84 Maple Ave., 229-9992, [www.sheffieldinn.com](http://www.sheffieldinn.com)  
Gail Ullman & Florence Liberman, innkeepers. 1840s house on 10 acres near the heart of town; pool; 6 rooms, \$95-150.

**Staveleigh House**, 59 Main St., 229-2129, [www.staveleigh.com](http://www.staveleigh.com)  
Ali A. Winston, innkeeper. 1817 house with gardens in town; 7 rooms, \$85-165.

dence for the Rev. James Bradford, third pastor at Old Parish Church, then added onto in the 1890s by Harry Andrew Staveleigh. Winston has decorated it in what she calls "sophisticated country."

#### Good Summer Business

Business for the B&B has never been better this summer, says Howden. Others say that while summer is busy, the winter was slow.

Nadine Hawver, in her third season running Ramblewood Inn, a log cabin on Route 41, blames the chain hotels in Great Barrington. "It's very seasonal," she says. But Berkshire School parents are steady clientele for her, and her quarters are well-suited to family reunions. "We had one family take the entire house at Christmas and another in August," she says.

"We're booked on the weekends," says Gail Ullman, who is in the fourth season of running the Sheffield Inn on Maple St. with her mother, Florence Liberman. "During the week it's much quieter, and there's not much winter business." The Sheffield Inn has 10 acres of fields and meadows and a big veranda lined with rockers.

The Sheffield Inn, built in 1888, had long been known as the Orchard Shade and was originally a boarding house. Henry and Debbie Thornton ran Orchard Shade as a B&B on Maple St. till 1998, when they moved their business to smaller quarters. The Orchard Shade is now on Hewins St.

Thornton, who ran a B&B in Ridgefield, CT, before coming to Sheffield in the mid-80s, says he enjoys having fewer rooms because it gives him more time to have breakfast with his guests. "One of the nice things about having a B&B is you get to meet and connect with people," he says. "When you have 10 rooms, you can have as many as 24 people at breakfast, and with that, the host is just scrambling around making sure the orange juice pitcher is filled."

"You don't make a lot of money, but it's a great lifestyle," says Winston of Staveleigh House. It led to romance for her as well—she bought the inn as a single mother and met her husband, Harry Conklin, at the open house given by the ladies who previously owned it. The wedding reception, of course, took place in the gardens behind the inn. —Andrea Scott



## REAWAKENING A COUNTRY GARDEN

When I first saw our Sheffield house on Miller Ave. in March 1998, I didn't pay much attention to the garden. The house sits by Hubbard Brook, and the thought crossed my mind that it might be interesting to grow marsh-loving plants, something I'd never been able to do before. Not that I call myself a gardener. In suburban New Jersey, my efforts have largely consisted of plopping a few impatiens plants and geraniums into the ground in the spring.

Still, I do come from Harrogate in England, a noted horticultural center, and I spent childhood summers at my grandparents' old stone house on the edge of the moors outside Sheffield, England, where my grandfather was a dedicated gardener. So I looked forward to creating a dreamy vision of a cottage garden in this Sheffield.

I reckoned without the Japanese knotweed, the milkweed, the con-

volvulus, the poison ivy, the wild berry patches and the briar roses. As soon as spring arrived that first year, all of the above burst through the earth, covering everything in sight, traveling faster than I could weed.

Back in the 1860s, Dr. John Leland Miller had owned our house, at a time when it was part of the 150-acre Mount Barnard farm. Miller, who was, among other things, shipwrecked on an island in the Caribbean Sea, a Civil War surgeon and designer of a model town in Illinois, became President of the Housatonic Agricultural Society and the Berkshire Farmers Association and held their meetings in our house. Lillian Preiss's book "Sheffield: Frontier Town" reports that it was said of Dr. Miller "he never suffered an obnoxious weed to grow on his property."

I pondered this thought a lot as I ripped out the ground ivy and the crabgrass and especially when I end-

ed up in the Fairview Hospital Emergency Room with a virulent case of poison ivy. Easier, perhaps, just to rototill everything under, sow wall-to-wall lawn and spend the afternoons lolling on the greensward of Tanglewood, which was, after all, what had attracted us to the Berkshires in the first place.

And yet, with each handful of weeds torn from the dirt, I began to see that someone, at some time, had loved this garden. There was, for a start, the apple tree in front of the house. Reminding me of a shy little girl with one leg wrapped around the other, the tree has a twisted trunk and, in the springtime, is a mass of heart-stopping bloom. The apples don't amount to much because I'm not willing to spray, but the birds love that tree, and spring, summer and fall there are chickadees and nuthatches, orioles and goldfinches flitting in and out of its branches.

Then there are the tree hydrangeas, planted along the side of the house. They didn't look impressive

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at first, and we nearly cut them down completely when we painted the house. We settled for pruning them back hard, which was apparently just what they'd been longing for. Come summer, they bloomed their hearts out and the flowers, when dried, filled baskets and mantels for the winter.

At one time, our property was a dairy farm, and from 1910 to 1938 Frank B. Percy was the manager of the dairy across the street (now Tim Hewins' carpentry business). Many in Sheffield will remember Millie Smith, who was one of the 12 Percy children, and well loved in town.

Just before she died in April 2000, she told me that the tree hydrangeas had been there as long as she could remember, since early in the last century. She told me, too, that as a child she had played beneath the grand old American chestnut tree, which has stood in front of the house for over 100 years, withstanding the chestnut blight that felled so many—although not faring nearly so well with the power company which, tragically, came through one day a couple of years ago and sliced off most of the branches facing the road.

Another really delightful surprise in the garden was when the asparagus starting pushing up through the earth. We couldn't believe our luck. For weeks we ate fresh asparagus, which has a completely different taste from store-bought.

Then I noticed that where I'd pulled out fistfuls of crabgrass, peonies were starting to bloom, their heavy heads dense with fragrance.

Next to them grew iris, including some with rare yellow and tan blossoms.

Meanwhile, in the woods, once the knotweed was scythed back, I found shy, three-leaved trillium, not only the native purplish-red wake robin, but also the rarer white and yellow varieties, interspersed among graceful Solomon's seal.

Each discovery was like a message from the past, a message to be de-coded and treasured: gardeners had been here. Someone, like me, had dug deep in this earth and had loved this land. Gradually, I began to discover blurred stone borders marking the edges of perennial gardens. I researched and learned the Latin names of the plants that were now emerging and flourishing again.

Someone had planted the lush bed of daylilies (*Hemerocallis*) on the bank of the river, and someone had thought the yellow flag iris (*Iris pseudacorus*) and the blue and white Siberian iris (*Iris sibirica*) would flourish along the front of the house. Someone had planned the bed of yellow yarrow (*Achillea filipendulina*) to rise, perfectly on cue, and fill the space after the oriental poppies (*Papaver oriental*) and the lilies-of-the-valley (*Convallariaceae*) had finished their short season. Someone had known that our cat would relish the catmint (*Nepeta mussinii*) in the vegetable garden, and someone had thought to plant the mock orange shrub at the corner of the house so the scent would drift intoxicatingly into the bedroom windows in June.

Other, shyer plants nestle at the


edge of the woods: delicate white Bethlehem star, golden alexander, St. John's wort, heal-all, wild mustard, mallows, bedstraw, buttercups, celandines and Queen Anne's lace. Many were known to the Native Americans for their healing properties; others were brought by English colonists as reminders of home.

I'm still an amateur as a gardener, but the delight of seeing this sleeping garden emerge from its spell spurs visions of perennial borders that Gertrude Jekyll or Vita Sackville-West would lust after.


Thanks to the rich river silt of Sheffield and the thoughtful gardeners of the past who organically enriched it, everything, like Jack's beanstalk, leaps enthusiastically out of the ground. I'm planting shrub roses now, the old-fashioned sweet-scented kind. I'm adding foxgloves and hollyhocks, forget-me-nots and Sweet Williams. I yearn for lamb's ears, Michaela's daisies and pink and white phlox. I want columbines nodding under the ancient blue spruce, amid a bed of asphodels. I picture lady's mantle and anemones next to the lovely "Sheffield" grand flora mums.

So don't look for me this summer on the lawns of Tanglewood, although I may steal away for evenings at the Berkshire Choral Festival and Barrington Stage. I'll be the one with the machete, attacking yet another knotweed stand to make way for my dream of a summer garden in this Sheffield Eden, hoping to decode yet another gardener's message from the past.

—Dr. Gillian Hettinger



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## BRIDGES ACROSS THE HOUSATONIC

Today, six bridges connect the east and west banks of the Housatonic River and people drive from side to side without thinking twice. In Sheffield's early days, the river seriously divided the town, with bridge after bridge falling down or being swept away by high water in the spring.

Ithiel Town rescued Sheffield from this predicament. Very likely, the two covered bridges built to his design in the early 1800s were among the first architecturally designed structures to be built locally. Although the two shores had been linked several times by poorly built bridges before the first Ithiel Town structure was in place in 1837, it was only after that date that the segmented township was securely united.

Town had received a patent in January 1820 for a pioneering lattice truss. It called for "tree nails," or wooden pins, that connected the numerous structural timbers at each intersection of the truss system. This eliminated the need for lengthy and expensive timbers, thereby reducing building expense. The design, by eliminating the need for labor-intensive mortise and tenon joints, cut construction costs still further.

The first such bridge was built in Sheffield in 1837, following a long experience with failed structures that, on an annual basis, routinely exceeded the cost of operating the town's 13 one-room schools. Taxpayers found themselves funding a

transportation infrastructure demanding not only scores of restorations but, frequently, entire bridge replacements.

As a result of these recurring problems, three local citizens, Lovell Taft, Jay Shears and Robert F. Barnard were appointed to plan and contract for a covered bridge over the Housatonic, with its designated site the present-day Maple Avenue. It was built by contractors Lucius and Owen Cowles of Westfield and was 126 ft long and 15 ft wide with a 12-foot overhead clearance, dimensions generous enough for the loaded hay wagons of Sheffield farmers. Its cost was \$9 per lineal foot plus abutments and incidental expenses, for a total of \$1,823.38. If the structure's costs were amortized over its 115-year history, the financial burden would be less than \$12 annually.

Opened for traffic on September 25, 1837, the bridge endured until the late summer of 1952, when it was taken down at the end of its useful life and burned in a nearby field. At the same time, the Housatonic was rerouted from the site of the bridge near Our Lady of the Valley Church to a point farther east, and a 20<sup>th</sup> century covered bridge replica was built. It, too, is now gone, replaced by one of steel and concrete.

A second Ithiel Town bridge was completed in December 1854. This time it was built by a local construction firm, Ensign & Jones, "... to be

built after the same pattern & in the same manner & generally of the like kind of materials...as the [existing] Covered bridge...." This second covered bridge—the "upper" bridge—was about 96 feet long, cost \$1,375 and served the town 140 years, until it was destroyed by an untimely fire in August 1994. To replace it, Sheffield got its second 20<sup>th</sup> century replica covered bridge, still in place on Covered Bridge Lane.

Born in Thompson, CT, in 1784, Town was one of the most distinguished architects of his time. In his youth he worked as a schoolteacher and carpenter. But, venturing to Boston, he studied under Asher Benjamin, another leading architect and author of builders' guides for Greek Revival and colonial building styles. For his part, Town became a leader in the use of other Revival styles including Gothic, Tuscan and Egyptian, as well as Greek. But he gradually became better known for his enduring lattice truss bridges than for his other building types, which include Center Church and Trinity Church on the Green in New Haven, the New York Custom House on Wall Street and the state capitols of Indiana and North Carolina.

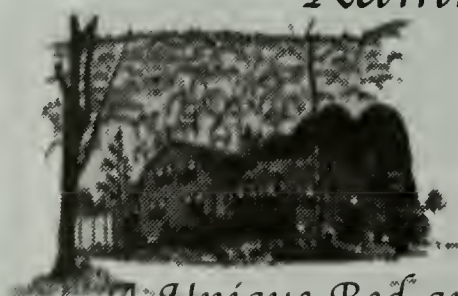
Although both of his Sheffield bridges are now gone, in Connecticut, Bull's Bridge in Kent and West Cornwall Bridge in Cornwall and Sharon are of his innovative design and can still be seen today.

—James Miller



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## HOUSATONIC RIVER FESTIVITIES SUMMER 2004

During July and August, look for lots of activities designed to celebrate the upper Housatonic River as part of Housatonic River Summer 2004. Sheffield kicks off a series of community festivals focused on the river, with Sheffield River Day on July 3. Sponsored by the Sheffield Association, the Sheffield Land Trust, and other Sheffield organizations, the day will feature a canoe/kayak race, a rubber ducky race, and a potluck picnic. Other festivals will take place in Housatonic, Pittsfield, Stockbridge, and more, as dozens of local arts and conservation organizations join in the celebration.

The Sheffield Art League initiated the project with the idea of themed art shows. Two framed art shows, one at Dewey Hall in Sheffield and the other at the Lenox Library, will be open during July, and a photography show will be open that month at the Doreen Young

Gallery at Simon's Rock College. Sculpture will be on view at Chesterwood and the grounds of the Norman Rockwell Museum in Stockbridge and near Berkshire Mountain Bakery in Housatonic. Best in the shows will be featured at the Norman Rockwell Museum from Aug. 13 to Sept. 19, where, on August 14, the Rockwell Family Festival Day will take place on the grounds.

A book published in conjunction with the festival, "Art and the River: Views and Visions of the Housatonic," is being sold at many of the events as well as at area bookstores and Guido's in Great Barrington. A map has also been published in conjunction with the event.

Profits from the summer events will fund a river improvement project that will enhance the public's enjoyment of the river. For more information, see [www.HousatonicRiverSummer.org](http://www.HousatonicRiverSummer.org).

## SCHOOL HEALTH FAIR CONSIDERED A SUCCESS

A Health Fair for students of the Southern Berkshire Regional School District was held during school hours on May 5. The fair was sponsored by the School Community Health Promotion Committee chaired by Debbie Phillips from the Community Health Center of the Berkshires.

Among the participating organizations were Main Street Human Resources, Berkshire Violence Prevention Center, Community Health Center of the Berkshires, Tapestry Health, Southern Berkshire Youth Coalition,

the Coalition to Prevent Teen Pregnancy, Berkshire Stonewall Community Coalition, Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays, and Hospice Care of the Berkshires. Representatives from Berkshire South Community Center, Berkshire Coop Market and the Mt. Everett School Agricultural Internship Program were present to encourage good nutrition and general fitness. SADD (Students Against Destructive Decisions) had a prominent table at the school entrance where students gave out information and free key chains.

Gift certificates were donated by PJs, Silk's Variety, Dolby Florist, Michele's Hair Salon, Gulotta's, Tune Street, White Knight Records and JWS Art Supplies to encourage students to participate in the fair and to answer an anonymous survey on sexual practices. Winners were chosen by lottery at the end of the day. A version of the game Jeopardy with sexual education questions was particularly popular.

Judged by the number of students visiting the different exhibits and talking with representatives of the participating organizations, the fair was considered a success by the organizing committee.

—Ellen Rowntree

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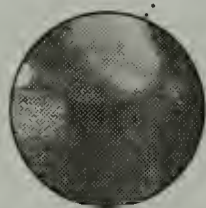
#### **RAKU DEMO – OPEN HOUSE** In conjunction with the Sheffield River Day

**Come join us on Saturday,  
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**We'll be offering tours of the clay pit  
at 1:00pm & 2:00pm**

Led by Jane Burke of the Flying Cloud Institute tours will include the geology of the clay deposit and the role of the Housatonic River in the formulation of the clay.

Delores Coan of Tinker Farms Pottery will offer a raku firing demonstration – our guests will be able to purchase and decorate a tea bowl and have it raku fired which you watch!

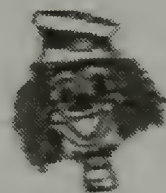


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## LANDMARK VOLUNTEERS NOW IN 14TH YEAR

In 1991 when John Stookey, founder of the Berkshire Chorale Festival, was at the Canterbury Cathedral in England with the Festival choristers, he invited some teenagers painting a wrought iron fence to attend the concert at the end of the week. In return, the teenagers left him some tee shirts saying "Cathedral Campers." The following year when the choristers were performing at the Rochester Cathedral in England, John spotted more people wearing "Cathedral Camper" tee shirts. Investigating, he discovered that these were summer volunteers involved in hands-on projects at cathedrals throughout England.

Stookey thought this would be a great experience for teenagers in the United States. And so Landmark Volunteers was born in 1992 as a non-profit summer program in which high school sophomores, juniors and seniors work as volunteers for two-week periods in cultural, environmental or social service non-profit institutions throughout the country. With



*Landmark volunteers remove invasive species at Schenob Brook.*

Stookey as president and his daughter Laura Stuart as the first executive director, the organization started in Concord, MA, where Laura lives. That first year 93 teenagers were placed in 11 different sites.

In 1994 the organization moved to Sheffield, where for the next eight years it was operated out of Susan Silvers's building on Route 7. In 2002 it moved to a newly constructed building at the junction of Rt. 7 and Egremont Rd.

Ann Barrett has been executive director since the fall of 1994. Under her leadership the number of student volunteers has grown from 93 to 750, working at 63 different non-profit sites this summer. The students currently pay a \$875 tax-deductible contribution to participate in teams of 12 or 13 on projects such as painting, fence building and trail clearing. Often, they sleep in

tents on site or on nearby school floors.

Since Landmark's founding in 1992, almost 6,000 students have participated. About a quarter of them return year after year until they outgrow the program. Two-thirds of the participants are girls. Eighty-five percent of the applicants get their first or second choice of placement. Barrett says, "The most meaningful part for me has been working with so many caring people and facilitating the growth of the organization, the individuals working within the organization and the student volunteers."

This year the project sites are in 21 different states and include The Hole in the Wall Gang Camp in Connecticut for children with cancer or other serious diseases, the Grand Teton Music Festival in Wyoming, the Adirondack Moun-

### SHEFFIELD BENEFITS FROM LANDMARK

A team of 13 Landmark Volunteers are working for two weeks this summer at Bartholomew's Cobble and the Schenob Brook Preserve in Sheffield.

The Cobble is a property of The Trustees of Reservations, which has been preserving cultural and scenic treasures in Massachusetts (10 in Berkshire County) since 1891. The Schenob Brook Preserve is managed by The Nature Conservancy, which is dedicated to saving the "last great places" throughout Asia-Pacific and the Americas to preserve plants, animals and natural communities by protecting the

lands and waters they inhabit.

This summer's volunteers, 11 of them from five states in the U.S., and two from London, England, will work one week each at the Bartholomew's Cobble and Schenob Brook sites, removing invasive species and doing landscape restoration, trail work, and a fencing project. The volunteers work from 8am to 4pm, putting in a full eight hours before they relax with a movie or board game after hours. Their day off might find them canoeing down the Housatonic River, bowling at Cove Lanes in Great Barrington, swimming in the Green River, or attending a play at Barrington Stage.

They will also provide one day of work for the Undermountain School, where they are staying, as a way of saying thanks for the use of the facilities.

Though Landmark has offered programs before at Schenob Brook, this is the first time volunteers will be at Bartholomew's Cobble. Both organizations are excited at the prospect. The volunteers will learn successful methods of conservation, the Cobble will benefit from their efforts, and in the end, the organizations and participants alike will profit from the collaboration.

—Pauline Clarke



tain Club, and Glimmerglass Opera in New York state, Olympic National Park in Washington and the National Elk Refuge in Wyoming. There are currently seven sites in Massachusetts, including Schenob Brook/ Bartholomew's Cobble (see box opposite page).

During past 14 years, the staff at Landmark Volunteers has grown to 11, four fulltime and seven part-time members (9 of the 11 live in Sheffield). The staff is busy year-round selecting students and project sites. Most staff members are site managers for a number of participating organizations, visiting them during the year to arrange for housing and food and overseeing the team leaders and local volunteer helpers. All staff members have detailed information on all sites and participants because they rotate to provide 24/7 on-call coverage during the summer months.

---

*"One of the greatest satisfactions for an entrepreneur is when an entity stands on its own and doesn't need the founder anymore. That's the case here."*

---

The organization's annual budget has grown to over \$800,000, of which approximately \$700,000 is covered through volunteer contributions. Grants from foundations help fund the remainder. For the past two years there has been a Diversity Scholarship Program led by

## TACONIC LEARNING CENTER

In September, the Taconic Learning Center will again be offering a wonderful variety of classes. The new semester starts in mid September. Offerings include Shakespeare, the Supreme Court and civil liberties, football, F. Scott Fitzgerald, molecular biology and more. For information or an application form, check out the Learning Center's website ([www.taconiclearningcenter.org](http://www.taconiclearningcenter.org)) or write PO Box 1752, Sheffield, MA 01257.

staff member Sheela Siegel, with 35 scholarship students, mostly from Boston and New York City, this summer. Siegel also started a newsletter last March for alumni, former team leaders, and others involved in the summer projects. There will be a writing contest open to participating students who wish to comment on their experiences.

Stookey continues to be enormously proud of the organization. He attributes its success to the talented, committed staff, the organized leadership of Ann Barrett and the breadth and depth of the Board of Trustees (recently, former Massachusetts governor Jane Swift has been elected a trustee). Stookey is still president, although he says, "One of the greatest satisfactions for an entrepreneur is when an entity stands on its own and doesn't need the founder anymore. That's the case here."

—Ellen Rowntree



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## ART KAUFMAN'S FAREWELL TO SHEFFIELD

*Art Kaufman, originally planning a year's sabbatical this fall, has decided instead to retire as of Sept. 15, after 12 years as pastor of Old Parish Church. Here is his farewell to the town:*

---

I like to think of them out there in the dark, watching us.  
 Sometimes we'll do something and they'll laugh.  
 Sometimes we'll do something and they'll cry.  
 And maybe one day we'll do something so magnificent,  
 Everyone in the universe will get  
 Goose bumps.

---

The above quote is one of my favorites. It comes from "The Search for Signs of Intelligent Life in the Universe" by Jane Wagner, at the end of the play just after Trudy has taken her alien visitors somewhere so they could experience goose bumps. She took them to a play. And they got goose bumps, not from watching the play but from watching the audience! Why? Trudy

explains:

Yeah, to see a group of strangers sitting together in the dark, laughing and crying about the same things... that just knocked 'em out. They said, "Trudy, the play was soup... The audience... Art."

You have given me goose bumps. Over the past 12 years I have laughed with you and cried with you. Played with you and fought with you. Officiated at your weddings, baptisms and funerals. Attended with you countless meetings. And more often than not I have left these occasions with goose bumps.

So why am I leaving?

The short answer is that while I was writing my piece for the sabbatical grant I realized that I simply could not, in all honesty, make the commitment required by the grant to return after four months and continue ministering with you for another 2, 3, 5 or more years. This is why I called a halt to the process. It simply would not be fair to you or the church to take this much time away and then return and retire. So, in a way, the sabbatical process

served its purpose. It forced me to be honest with myself and with you. And as difficult as this decision was to make I believe it is right for me and, I hope, for the church. Some of you will disagree strongly with the latter, and some of you perhaps agree that it is indeed time for someone else to lead this church into "The Promised Land."

What makes the decision even more difficult for my wife, Sue, and me is that we will also be leaving Sheffield and our home. Again, while I thought I could leave the church but stay in Sheffield I realized, that by so doing I would by my very nature be in the way.

We will, I suspect, be having many conversations about these issues and others that any leaving forces out into the open and to talk openly about them is a good thing—including feelings that will range all the way from sadness, anger, and hurt to hopefulness.

As we do that I want to thank you for allowing me to be a part of your lives for more than 12 years. You have been incredibly supportive, forgiving, generous and tolerant. You have indeed given me "goose bumps"!

—Rev. Art Kaufman

## BARRINGTON STAGE COMPANY FEATURES 'SWEET CHARITY'

Barrington Stage opens its Tenth Anniversary season with the dance musical "Sweet Charity," with a book by Neil Simon, and score by composer Cy Coleman and lyricist Dorothy Fields.

Inspired by Federico Fellini's film "Le Notti Di Cabiria," the musical

tells the story of Charity Hope Valentine, a dance hall hostess looking for true love, but landing nothing but low-lives. Broadway veteran Valerie Wright stars. Her Broadway credits include "Annie Get Your Gun," "Damn Yankees," and "Cats."

The production will be directed by Rob Ruggiero and choreographed by Ralph Perkins, with musical direction by Michael Morris. Sweet Charity runs through July 17 at the Consolati Performing Arts Center at Mt. Everett High School in Sheffield. Tickets are available by calling 413-528-8888 or online at [www.barringtonstageco.org](http://www.barringtonstageco.org).

### BSC HOSTS VILLAGE PEOPLE, CABARETS

Legendary disco group the Village People will give a special one-night performance at the Consolati Performing Arts Center on Mon., July 12 at 8pm. Reserved seats are \$35.

Barrington Stage will also host two late-night cabarets at its

StudioSpace theatre on Main St. in Sheffield. On Sat., July 10 at 10:30pm, cast members from the production of Sweet Charity will sing renditions of their favorite Cy Coleman tunes. On Sat., July 31 at 10pm, cast members will share some

of their best-loved tunes by composer William Finn. Tickets are \$25. Wine and light snacks will be available.

Tickets are available by calling 413-528-8888 or online at [www.barringtonstageco.org](http://www.barringtonstageco.org).



# SENIOR SUMMIT PLANNED FOR SEPTEMBER 17

Sheffield residents are doing a great job of looking ahead and planning for our environmental needs such as preserving some of our farmland and forests, our dirt roads, and our elm trees. It is now time to look ahead and make plans for a facility for the activities of our seniors.

Currently, Sheffield's Senior Center is housed in Dewey Hall and serves the 600+ Sheffield residents over age 60. In planning for a future facility, we must include those who are between 40 and 50 (currently 700 residents), a group that has been increasing over the last 20 years.

Where will they meet for physical fitness classes, health clinics, luncheons, and a game of croquet 10 years from now?

The space leased by the Town of Sheffield in Dewey Hall is not sufficient. The town rents Dewey Hall's small library room, which acts as the center for the many senior activities, on a yearly contract. In this room, one sits to have foot care and toenails cut, as others get the coolers and pick up the list to deliver Meals on Wheels (4,270 meals delivered last year), or speak to the director about getting some financial assistance with the heating bill. The

visiting nurse takes blood pressure and checks cholesterol as the director tries to concentrate on filling out forms for a grant to help pay an instructor for fitness classes. The Sheffield Council on Aging and volunteer committees meet, and the director and assistant director file all the paperwork necessary to run this part of our community service. All this in one room!

For a fee, the Town also can use the hall a few days a month for fitness classes, potluck lunches, art classes, and speakers.

Dewey Hall is often mistaken for the senior center, but its function is much broader. Owned by the Sheffield Friendly Union Library Association, Dewey Hall and its land were given by the Dewey family to the Friendly Union in 1887. It is presently used as a community resource to house activities such as the Berkshire Children's Choir, the winter Farmers' Market, the Taconic Learning Center lectures, Sheffield Art League shows, as well as the Council on Aging.

A new senior center would be built using grant monies from the state and federal governments.

To find appropriate space for senior activities, an ad hoc committee is calling for a "senior summit" on Sept. 17 (location and time to be announced) to discuss possible future scenarios:

- Should it be a community hall

with a section reserved for senior offices?

- Could it be an existing building remodeled with an addition?
- Or a new building housing just the many senior activities?
- Or perhaps it could be the central building of a new senior housing complex?

To come up with the best answer for Sheffield, all the citizens of our community, including the town governing boards, the industrial leaders, merchants, business, and fraternal groups need to be involved. Let's do some dreaming and wishful thinking about a future for Sheffield seniors, and do a lot of imaginative research all over town with these goals in mind.

- Do you have a piece of property that might meet the needs of this project?
- Do your neighbors have one you could talk to them about?
- Or have you seen a building that could be considered as you drive around town?

Are you an experienced grant writer, deed researcher, letter writer, or familiar with land and building regulations? Perhaps you are a good cheerleader or willing helper. Volunteer your expertise today! Call Pauline W. Schumann at 229-8149 or email [bevkril9@rnetworx.com](mailto:bevkril9@rnetworx.com)

—Pauline W. Schumann

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## PROFILE: MARCIA SAVAGE

William Sloane Coffin defined a spiritual person as someone who's learned how to live an ordinary life extraordinarily well.

Marcia Savage is one of those people. Retired in May after nine years as executive director of the Elizabeth Freeman Center, Marcia is trying to learn how to be retired. She is doing that from her home base on Root Lane, where she has lived since 1989 with her partner of some 30 years, Carol Sica, and, when she's home, their daughter, Julie.

The Elizabeth Freeman Center, based in Pittsfield, serves women and their families in Berkshire County who are in crisis. The mission of this agency was a perfect fit for Marcia, whose passion is to empower women and minorities. Another of her passions is to live and practice a style of leadership that is both prophetic and visionary.

But let's return to her beginnings before we flesh out her professional life.

Dr. Savage was born in Worcester, MA, in 1939. Her father was in the import/export business and in real estate. Her mother was, in Marcia's words, "a good volunteer." During World War II, her mother wrote for a local newspaper, a job that lasted until the war ended and the men returned to reclaim their jobs. Marcia's mother went back to being an at-home mother and volunteer.

Marcia had a younger sister, Jean, who died of breast cancer at the age of 42. Jean's daughter, Julie, was six years old at the time of her mother's death. Marcia and Carol became Julie's parents. They like to tell people that Julie was "the best present we ever received under very sad circumstances." The local newspaper, upon learning of this new addition to Marcia and Carol's life, headlined the story: "Savage becomes mother at 49!"

It wasn't until Julie became 21 that she could, at her request, be officially adopted by Marcia and Carol (the laws of our Commonwealth wouldn't allow it before then). Upon adoption, she changed her name to Julianne Sarah Lothian Sica-Savage. Nurtured by these two incredibly creative and loving parents Julie, after attending Simon's Rock and graduating from Smith College, became a social worker. She is currently practicing this profession as a case manager in Holyoke.

Back to Dr. Savage and her professional life. From 1985 to 1995, Dr. Savage was the president of Manhattanville College in Purchase, N.Y. Prior to that, she served in many academic posts, including dean of the college at Clark University in Worcester, where she had received her doctorate in education in 1966, and president of Hartford College for Women, in Hartford, in the early 1980s. While at Hartford College, Dr. Savage established a women's research institute, revital-

ized the college's counseling center, increased and diversified the staff, and raised money. As if this were not enough she served as commissioner of the New England Association for Schools and Colleges; as chair of the board of governors of the Hartford Consortium of Higher Education; as the Connecticut coordinator of the American Council on Education's National Identification program; as a member of the Connecticut Humanities Council and of the Hartford Women's Network. During these years, she received the Woman of the Year Award from the Greater Hartford Business and Professional Women's Club and the Women in Leadership Award for Higher Education from the YWCA of Greater Hartford.

If one could assign a motto to the way Marcia lives her life it might be "Principles are paramount" or "The good life is not an easy life" or maybe "Titles come and go."

Insisting in fairness in all things, Dr. Savage tells of clearing the way at Clark University for Marine recruiters during the Vietnam era and of defending Phyllis Schlafly's right to speak at the college. To this day, regardless of what she believes, she will defend the right of others to be heard, whether they agree with her or not.

Getting personal yet again, I want to tell you how Marcia and Carol met each other. Actually it was Marcia who found Carol while serving as academic dean of the college at Clark. The University needed a chair for their theatre department. With a twinkle in her eye Marcia says, "I hired Carol. Little did I know, or Carol know, what that would lead to." When they did know, true to their values and with a great sense of integrity, Carol resigned her position at Clark to work elsewhere. Carol is not only an actress/director but also an artist.

These two incredibly talented and caring women plan to be "officially" married this month. Let us celebrate with them as we salute Dr. Marcia Savage, an ordinary woman who is living an ordinary life extraordinarily well.

—Rev. Art Kaufman

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## CHURCH NEWS

### Vacation Bible Camp

Our Lady of the Valley Parish invites children to "Lava Lava Island: Where Jesus' Love Flows." This Vacation Bible Camp will provide fun, memorable activities for kids ages 5-10—games, crafts, snack-making, Bible adventures, and participation in a hands-on mission project for needy children in Latin America. Lava Lava Island takes place the week of July 26-30, 9am-1pm at the Parish Center. For more information, call 229-2275 or 258-4157.

### Vacation Bible School

Christ Church Episcopal and Old Parish United Church of Christ will be hosting a Vacation Bible School July 26-29, 9am-12pm for grades pre-K to 6 at Old Parish. Note the change in dates! The focus for the week will be "Peacemaking Creatively Through the Arts," and we will explore and experience peacemaking concepts such as cooperation, communication, stewardship, global awareness and conflict resolution through various activities and art forms. To register your child, call the Old Parish office at 229-8173.

### Good Samaritan Fund

The Good Samaritan Fund needs you again. The last time I sent this message out, you responded with kindness and generosity. Because of your response we were, again, able to help several people in our community who simply could not keep up. In April and May, the fund helped a family who lost its rental home buy some time by paying for a stay in a local motel and a single mom who was without hot water because she had no money for oil, despite holding down a job.

The fund is now below \$100 and cannot help anyone in a meaningful way. So again I turn to you for help in replenishing a fund that has helped so many people in our communities. Donations may be sent to Old Parish Church marked "Good Samaritan Fund."

## CHURCHES & SERVICES

### ASHLEY FALLS

Grace Bible (non-denominational)  
355 Clayton Road (413) 229-8560;  
parsonage (860) 824-7442.  
Sunday: 9:30am Sunday School (ages 3-adult); 10:30am Worship Service, nursery care provided; Rev. Edward M. Eastman Jr., Pastor

Trinity Methodist (United Methodist)  
1156 Ashley Falls Road (413) 229-2712.  
Sunday: 9am Service.  
Pastor Betty LeGeyt

### GREAT BARRINGTON

Congregation Ahavath Shalom  
(reconstructionist)  
North Street (413) 528-4197  
Friday, 8pm & Saturday, 10am. Services are not held every week. Schedules are updated weekly on the answering machine, including special services.

Hevreh of Southern Berkshire  
270 State Road (413) 528-6378  
Friday: 7:30pm Shabbat Service;  
Saturday: 10am Shabbat service & Torah study. Rabbi Deborah Zecher, Assistant Rabbi Andrew Klein

Trinity Lutheran  
St. James 352 Main Street  
(413) 528-1330. Sunday: 9:30am  
Sunday Worship. Rev. George E. Mayer

Unitarian Universalist Meeting of  
South Berkshire  
Meet at the United Methodist Church,  
198 Main Street (413) 528-4850; home  
(413) 528-3106. Sunday: 5pm. Rev.  
Kathy Duhon

### SHEFFIELD

Christ Church (Episcopal)  
180 Main Street (413) 229-8811  
Sunday: 8am & 10am Holy Eucharist;  
10am Sunday School & childcare;  
Thursday: 10am Holy Eucharist & Healing. Rev. Anne Ryder.

Congregation of Jehovah's Witnesses  
Rte 7 & Kellogg Road (413) 229-8649.  
The public is welcome.

### Faith Baptist

640 North Main Street (413) 229-0400  
Sunday: 9:45am Sunday School;  
10:45am Worship Service; 6pm Bible  
Study; Wednesday: 7pm Mid-week  
Service; Pastor L.V. Morris.

### Old Parish (Congregational)

125 Main Street (413) 229-8173  
Sunday: 10am Worship. Rev. Art  
Kaufman, Pastor

Our Lady of the Valley (Catholic)  
Maple Avenue (413) 229-3028;  
Saturday: 4:30pm Mass; Sunday:  
Sheffield 7:30am, 9am Masses; Mill  
River 10:30 Mass. Rev. John S. Lis

Sheffield Chapel (non-denominational)  
1970 N. Main Street,  
[www.sheffieldchapel.org](http://www.sheffieldchapel.org), (413) 528-  
2911 Sunday: 8am & 10:45am Morning  
Worship; 9:30am Sunday school for all  
ages; Tuesdays: 7pm Prayer Meeting;  
Wednesday: 7-9pm Separation and  
Divorce Care Seminar/Support group.  
Pastor Chet Howes

As you know, this fund was established by the churches in our community in the 80's as a way of providing immediate, "no strings attached" help to anyone who found themselves in need of a helping hand. Since that time this fund, on your behalf has helped individuals and families through many a crisis. With your help it will continue to do so for years to come.

On behalf of all our churches,  
thank you!

—Rev. Art Kaufman

**Support the  
Sheffield Times!  
See page 31.**



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## LIBRARY MAKES \$1,000 FROM BOOK SALE

The book sale held by the Bushnell-Sage Library and the Friends of the Library on May 14 and 15 raised approximately \$1,000. The books on sale included donations to the library and books culled from the library's collection because they are no longer required—for example, duplicate and out-of-date volumes that have not circulated for years (but no classics).

When books are donated, Library Director Nancy Hahn selects those to be added to the collection. The remainder is put aside for sale. When a large enough quantity has accumulated, a sale is scheduled.

The sales require a lot of effort by the library staff and volunteers. Beforehand, the books need to be

sorted into categories, priced and set out for display. When the sale is underway, the cashier's desk must be staffed and customers assisted. We are grateful for the long hours put in by the many people who assisted in the May sale, particularly by Molly Goodchild, Nancy Kriegel and Peter Rowntree.

The Friends have also set up a permanent "used bookstore" in the lobby of the library, where limited number of volumes are on display, most in excellent condition. The price is right! Hardcover go for \$2 and paperbacks for \$1. Payment can be made at the circulation desk. Books are added on a regular basis, so check the inventory often!

Potential donors should note

**THE BUSHNELL-SAGE  
LIBRARY**  
(JUST OFF ROUTE 7 IN SHEFFIELD)  
413-229-7004

### HOURS

Tuesday	10-5
Wednesday	10-5
Thursday	10-5
Friday	10-8
Saturday	10-5
Sunday	Closed
Monday	Closed

that the library really appreciates gifts of books (including audio books and videos), but some items are virtually unusable and cannot be accepted. These include textbooks, encyclopedias, outdated business and computer books, Reader's Digest condensed books and damaged books. If you have questions, please call Nancy (229-7007).

—David Steindler

## GARDENING FOR THE FUTURE

On May 25 Marie Stella Byrnes, a noted landscape architect and garden historian, gave a talk on "Gardening in the Twenty-First Century" at the Library. Byrnes, who divides her time between Manhattan and a working farm in Charlemont, a community in western Massachusetts along the Mohawk Trail, urged gardeners to change the way we garden to take account of global warming, decreased rainfall and other climatic changes occurring on our planet: "Think about the dry garden, a garden that requires zero irrigation." (By irrigation she means watering.) She advocates the use of succulents and large swathes of native plants. She suggests "rainwater harvesting" and the use of penetrable paving such as paving stones instead of concrete and asphalt to allow rainwater to return to the water table. She mentioned Road Oyl Resin Pavement, a product made of pine pitch, which is an organic paving alternative.

Rent a sheep in Sheffield? Don't laugh. Marie showed a slide of the White House during Woodrow Wil-

son's presidency with sheep on the great lawn. Using sheep or other grazing animals is more environmentally friendly than mowers and tractors. Marie explained how plantings from grass to shrubs to trees act as filters or natural "water treatment" systems. Plant life and other organic life associated with plant life can trap sediment and absorb pollutants. She suggested the possibility of "ecorooofs" in the cities using building rooftops for gardens to filter, purify, and oxygenate the air. She stressed the importance of biodiversity and how critical it is to control

invasive plants. Great Britain, in some part because of Prince Charles' interest in organic gardening, takes this concept so seriously that it is illegal to sell seeds of certain banned plants, and one firm was actually prosecuted. Tabloid headlines read, "Thompson & Morgan convicted on all three vegetables."

Byrnes was impressed when shown the library's extensive collection of gardening books. Nancy Hahn, Library director, issued a library card to Byrnes so that she could borrow a book of particular interest to her. —Pamela Bloodworth

### LIBRARY TO OPEN ON SUNDAYS

Recognizing that many library patrons, including students and second homeowners, are not able to visit the library during the week or on Saturdays, the Board of Trustees of the Library voted on June 17 to authorize opening the library on Sunday afternoons starting the first Sunday after

Labor Day. Having Sunday hours fulfills a longstanding dream of the Library Director, the Friends of the Library and a large number of Sheffield residents.

To facilitate the new opening hours, effective July 6 the library will no longer be open Tuesday evenings from 5 to 8pm.



## TALK ON MANHATTAN HISTORY

On June 6 Russel Shorto talked at the library about his new book, "The Island at the Center of the World: The Epic Story of Dutch Manhattan and the Forgotten Colony that Shaped America." The book covers the Dutch colony of New Netherlands from its founding until the English took over in 1664, including the struggle between two of its most important characters, the famous Peter Stuyvesant and the almost forgotten Adriaen von der Donck. In Shorto's account, the latter is the more compelling hero of the story than the colorful but tyrannical Stuyvesant.

The book focuses on the contributions of the Dutch settlers to our present-day society. For instance, their municipal charter formed the basis of Manhattan's government and set a pattern of acceptance in a multi-ethnic and multi-religious population speaking some 20 different languages. Shorto also discussed the contribution of the Dutch language to our present day vernacular. Words like "cookie," "coleslaw," "Santa Claus" and "boss" all derive from the Dutch.

Shorto's work is based on the research of Charles Ghering, who has been working on a translation of the official records of the colony for 30 years. According to Shorto, these irreplaceable documents were almost destroyed when a fire broke out in the Albany State Library where they were stored. They were saved only because they were protected by a shelf full of the corresponding English archives, which collapsed on top of them.

—Joyce Freundlich

## EXPLORE NEW WORLDS

Students of all ages are invited to "Explore New Worlds" with the Summer Reading Program at the Bushnell-Sage Library. The Library will offer a program every Wednesday in July at 10am. The programs will include a story time, snack and craft time.

Each week, the program will focus on a different theme. We will explore these worlds:

Date	Theme	Craft
June 30	Rivers	Paper Boat Building
July 7	Fantasy	Treasure Frames
July 14	Traveling	T-shirt travel Pillows
July 21	Oceans	Fish T-Shirts
July 28	Outer Space	Hand-Held Planetarium

In addition, young readers are encouraged to set reading goals for the summer. In the past, participants kept track of the number of books they read for the summer. The child who read the most books won a prize. This year, we've decided that all readers are winners. Young people who register for the program are encouraged to set a personal reading goal. During the summer, these kids can check in once a week to report their progress. Some of the goals so far include "recognize letter sounds" and "read 8-12 books myself." Children can register at the library, by calling June Wolfe at 229-7004 or online by writing to [jwolfe@cwmars.org](mailto:jwolfe@cwmars.org). Summer is a great time for reading!

—June Wolfe

## RECOMMENDED READING

From Liz Chaffee

*The Devil in the White City*, by Erik Larson. This book has been on the New York Times best-seller list forever, and for good reason. It's the fascinating nonfiction story of the architect who designed and built the 1893 Chicago World's Fair (known as the White City), told alternately with the story of a serial killer (known as the Devil) who plagued Chicago at the same time. The book is crammed with historical tidbits, sometimes gruesome, but Larson's writing is always clear and entertaining.

*The Girl Who Loved Tom Gordon*, by Stephen King. This short novel is one of King's lesser-known works. It's the survival story of a nine-year old girl who gets lost in the woods on a family outing. It's gritty but surprisingly warm-hearted; King is more concerned with his heroine's emotional life and coming of age than with the gross-outs we usually associate with him (well, there is that part about the deer...).

From Peter Rowntree

*Eats, Shoots and Leaves: The Zero Tolerance Approach to Punctuation*, by Lynne Truss. Perhaps the ultimate proof that a best-seller can be written about almost anything, this book, in the author's words, "...like the self-help books that give you permission to love yourself...gives you permission to love punctuation." Truss reminds us (if we ever knew) how to use the comma, the semicolon, the colon, the dash, the period, quotation marks and the much-abused apostrophe (which has suffered since the days of Queen Elizabeth I, who appointed a Royal Apostropher to watch over its—it's?—use). She has led (and recommends that others form) vigilante groups to correct mispunctuation in public signs and notices. The book is a lighthearted, painless way to refresh your memory about punctuation as well as being a really good read.

## COMING LIBRARY EVENTS

**Children's concert** with Jeffrey Folmer, a nationally-touring singer/songwriter from Sandisfield. Folmer has opened for such artists as Joe Walsh of the Eagles, Edie Brickell, Paul Winter and Richie Havens. His concert is filled with songs of humor, environmental awareness, and positive messages that will appeal to young and old alike. July 2, 2pm.

**Author reading.** George Black will read from his new book, *The Trout Pool Paradox: The American Lives of Three Rivers*. Publishers Weekly said: "Black follows the history of Connecticut's Housatonic River and the divergent tales of two of its main tributaries: the Shepaug ("the Platonic ideal of a trout stream") and the Naugatuck ("a chemical sewer")....Black's writing smoothly runs the gamut from highly scientific to the poetic prose you might expect from a fly fisherman raised in Scotland." August 28, 2pm.



## APPOINTMENTS TO TOWN BOARDS AND COMMITTEES

On May 17 and June 21, the Board of Selectmen made many appointments to town boards, commissions and other bodies. In the case of the Finance Committee, it ratified those made by the Town Moderator, Bruce Person.

Several positions remain open. These include vacancies on the Cable Television Committee, the Conservation Commission, the Council on Aging, the Historical Commission and Southern Berkshire Regional School Committee.

Sheffield residents who are interested in serving on one of these town boards should send a letter to that effect to the Selectmen. The letter should describe relevant skills or experience. Anyone who wants to learn more about the work of a particular board can attend one of its meetings—meetings are open to the public with rare exceptions. Information regarding the time and place of meetings is available from the Town Clerk and in the town's Annual Report, copies of which are available at Town Hall.

—Peter Rowntree

Recent Appointments		
Position	Appointed	Term
Ashley Falls Historic District Commission	Joan Baldwin, Sandra Preston, Robert Pasqualina Susan Cobb Merchant (alternate), John James (alternate)	2 years
Board of Assessors	Tammy Blackwell	3 years
Board of Health	David Macy	2 years
Board of Registrars	Marjorie Consolini	2 years
Conservation Commission	James Herlihy, June Wolfe	3 years
Council on Aging	Natalie Funk, Ann T. Hyatt, Art Kaufman	2 years
Cultural Council	Susan Gillette, Steven Hyer, Brenda Ullrich	2 years
Finance Committee	Judith Schnurr, David Smith	3 years
Historical Commission	William Browne, Robert Macy, Jr., Martha Williamson	3 years
Industrial Development	David Steindler, Phyllis Weiss	3 years
Park and Recreation Comm.	Teresa Anello, Grace Campbell, Robert Gringas, Kevin Joyce Michael Ovitt, Joe Wilkinson	1 year
Southern Berkshire Reg. School Committee	John Pollitt	1 year
Zoning Board of Appeals	Eric Carlson; Eric Blackburn Sr. (alternate), James Collingwood (alternate), David West (alternate)	3 years 1 year for alternates

## ASHLEY FALLS VILLAGE IMPROVEMENT SOCIETY

**Christine Welch honored.** Christine, our lifelong neighbor, friend, and postmaster of Ashley Falls for 31 years was honored on June 22 at a reception held at the Ashley Falls Post Office. Christine died in 2002. In her name the Ashley Falls Village Improvement Society received gifts that allow the creation of a small garden on the grassy, sunny side of the post office. The Brooks family of Ashley Falls generously provided both the space for the garden and a nice chunk of marble (likely from the old Ashley Falls quarry) for a plaque.

Christine's dedicated civic pride sustained the AFVIS over four decades. We are thankful for that and for the work of others whose good lives and efforts of years past are reflected in the quality of community life we enjoy today. Remember Christine, she was a big part of our small town.

**Parade success.** The Memorial Day parade was, as always, better than last year! Jack O'Donnell, SFC, of East Main St., Ashley Falls, an Army reservist for over 19 years, was this year's featured speaker. Jack has since left for duty in Iraq. We wish him well and a safe speedy return to the Berkshires. Thanks to the Bill Conklin family—year after year their homemade doughnuts bring in the donations that help us defray the cost of the parade. Thanks also to all who donated—we need your continued support.

**Bridge work.** The reconstruction of the Ashley Falls Rd. bridge over the Konkapot River is supposed to finally begin this summer. Mass Highway says it will be done by July 2005. No specific date was given when the work will begin.

—Richard Cherneff



## ASSESSORS & COLLECTORS

**Real-estate tax exemptions.** The Assessors Office will be sending out exemptions forms to seniors age 70 years or older, veterans and the blind who received them last year. Contact the Assessors Office at 229-7001 for qualifications.

**Chapter 61a & 61b annual application deadline.** Applications are due on or before Oct. 1. Sorry, no exceptions.

**Tax bills.** New preliminary real-estate tax bills went out at the end of June for the Aug. 1 and Nov. 1 payments. Remember, there will be no second notice sent out for the November payment.

### Transfer Station Hours

Tuesday & Fridays:  
1pm-4pm

Saturdays: 8am-4pm  
Sundays: 8:30am-2pm

## HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE

Sheffield residents can dispose of unwanted oil paint, stains, paint thinners and turpentine and used motor oil: **Wed, July 14, 4-7pm** at the Gt Barrington Transfer Station; **Sat., Aug. 14, 9-11am** at the Otis Transfer Station; and **Sat. Aug. 28, 9-11am** at the Lenox Dept. of Public Works. Old latex paint can be dried out and disposed of in regular trash.

Household hazardous waste, such as paint and paint thinners, drain cleaners, old thermometers, and button, cell-phone and tool batteries, can be taken to the Stockbridge Recycling Center on, **Sat., July 24, 9-11am.**

Pre-registration is required. Call the Center for Environmental Technology at 413-445-4556 or 800-238-1221 or email [jamiec@cetonline.org](mailto:jamiec@cetonline.org).

## PUBLIC APPLAUDS SHEFFIELD MASTER PLAN

On June 18, the Legion Hall was packed when almost 140 people turned out for the concluding Public Forum for this phase of the Master Plan. Many town officials, including the Selectmen and the chair of the Planning Board, attended, along with a mix of residents (primary and second home owners) who came to hear about and comment on the results of the two-year process. That process included a comprehensive community survey and eight other public input sessions.

Selectman David Macy, started the meeting by explaining the process so far and thanking the Steering Committee and everyone who had worked to develop the plan. Steering Committee chair Kathy Orlando then completed a brief review of the prior public input sessions and introduced the chairs of the subcommittees, who thanked their committee members and summarized the findings of each committee.

Jeanne Armstrong, of LandUse, Inc, consultant for this last part of the process, then reviewed the Land Use plan. She stressed that the current development patterns did not match with the vision for the town that the community had expressed throughout the process, and that the town would have to actively work to guide development to achieve its desired future. Highlighting key maps and resources, she facilitated the rest of meeting. Each presentation was outlined on a large screen at the front of the room and in accompanying handouts.

A separate summary of recommendations was handed out, along with a sheet for attendees to write down their questions and comments. Those sheets were collected and used during the question, answer and comment session that followed.

One of the key maps reviewed was the "Conceptual Land Use Plan," a map-based overview that brought together much of the data and concepts from the different sections of the Plan. It highlighted village centers as areas to "foster a vibrant mix of residential, business and civic" uses, with "thoughtful infill" as a strategy of development, stressing the need to maintain

community and neighborhood character and the crucial role members of the community must play in the process.

Recommendations that came out of the process included the need for affordable and workforce housing--built so it's in keeping with neighborhood character. Other recommendations include maintaining ridgelines and outlying agricultural and natural resource areas, as well as the Route 41 corridor. In the Route 7 and 7A corridor, development strategies were outlined to minimize the creation of "strip" development, and enhance the aesthetic and economic future of heavily traveled roads in ways that encourage travelers to slow down and explore local businesses and make it safer for families who live along the road through town.

When Armstrong asked the meeting attendees for a show of hands of those who felt that the plan and recommendations were on track, a forest of hands shot up. None were raised in response to the opposite question.

The overarching theme was maintaining Sheffield's rural character while enhancing its natural, agricultural and recreational resources; investing in its existing businesses and encouraging additional compatible businesses; and creating ways to provide for housing and to guide development so it is in keeping with neighborhood wishes.

A parallel theme was how essential continued community involvement will be to implementing the plan. Sheffield's people are one of its greatest resources, and the Planning Board will be looking for people who are interested in helping as it guides the town through the implementation phase of the Plan.

The Master Plan was submitted to the state for the June 30 deadline, in keeping with the terms of the grant, and will make the town eligible for future implementation funds. The complete Master Plan document and maps will be available at Town Hall and the Bushnell-Sage Library later in July, and a streamlined Executive Summary is still being planned for broader distribution.



# village GREEN

## SELECTMAN PROFILE: DAVID D. MACY

A three-person Board of Selectmen serves the town of Sheffield. The position is part-time and paid \$2,100 for the chairman and \$1,500 for the other members. The Sheffield Times will profile each of the current Selectmen during the next year. David Macy, re-elected to a three-year term by a vote of 175-109 over Richard Campeglio on May 10, is first.

Macy, a teacher of automotive technology at Taconic High School in Pittsfield, was first elected to the Board in 1996 and then re-elected in 1998, 2001 and 2004. He and Nancy, his wife, have two grown children. Having moved here when he was two years old, he has deep roots in the community.

When asked how Sheffield had changed since he began serving on the Board eight years ago, Macy cites three differences: a greater number and influence of second-home people and people who have chosen to move to Sheffield; a greater concern for conservation and environmental matters, which he believes deserve recognition, and a major policy shift that's moved fiscal responsibilities from the state to the local level and placed a greater tax burden on Sheffield, a change he is not so happy about.

As a candidate for re-election this spring, David had listed three priorities for the Board this year: to reconsider the way schools in the Southern Berkshire Regional School District are funded, to correct what he perceives to be an imbalance that is unfair to Sheffield; to assist in the search for a new town senior center; and to push the State for long-delayed funding for the reconstruction of Berkshire School Rd. and the Village Green.

As a hopeful portent of things to come, the Selectmen learned at a recent meeting that state representative William "Smitty" Pignatelli has included the long-delayed Village Green project in this year's \$267,000,000 state transportation bond bill. If eventually approved, that will permit the town to address serious issues of parking and possibly burying utility lines. The rebuilding of Berkshire School Road is also slated for

## TOWN CLERK

**Voter registration.** If you have not yet registered to vote or would like to make a party enrollment change, the deadline for the state primary on Sept 14 is Aug. 25. For the Presidential election on Nov. 2, it's Oct. 13. A reminder to students who are registered voters: If you will be away at school during the election season, stop in and fill out an absentee ballot application before you leave the area in the fall.

*The Town Clerk is open weekdays 9am-4pm. Call 229-8752 for information*

funding this year.

Macy thinks there needs to be better communication between the Town administration and the residents of Sheffield. Commenting that he left the last town meeting feeling "totally drained and frustrated," he felt those responsible did not do a good job explaining several items on the warrant. The Town, therefore, "looked bad." As an example, he noted the Board was accused of trying to derail the school budget by putting it at the end of the meeting, when really they had placed it there to try to get more people to stay for the whole meeting. He also believes the Town's case relative to the school budget was not effectively presented.

Finding people to serve on committees continues to be an issue. Macy feels it's not any worse than when he was first elected, however. People's priorities are elsewhere. "For a lot of people, their priority is their family, but they need to realize one of the best ways to help their families is to help the community of which they are a part." For the Selectmen, sometimes the issue is not simply accepting people who submit their names, but creating a committee representative of the Town as a whole.

What energizes Macy in his work as a selectman is solving problems—those brought to him by individuals and those facing the town as a whole. He is very appreciative of town employees, particularly those working in Town Hall and the police and highway departments. "They know and do their jobs," he notes. And he is supportive of the proposed Master Plan. "Sometimes you see the trees, but you miss the forest," he says.

—John G. Wightman

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## POLICE DEPT

This July 4<sup>th</sup>, don't lose your car, license and freedom to impaired driving. The Sheffield Police Department reminds you law enforcement is mobilizing against impaired drivers this 4<sup>th</sup> and throughout the summer. The choice is yours - designate a sober driver or one will be appointed for you straight to jail.

REMEMBER: YOU DRINK & DRIVE. YOU LOSE.

## BOARD OF HEALTH

**Mosquito control.** The Berkshire County Mosquito Control Project will be spraying for mosquitoes through Sept. 15, 4am-8am Monday through Friday. The material to be used is Scourge SBP+1382 with the active ingredient Resmethrin. Any resident wishing further information can contact the project office at (413) 447-9808 or email scmcp@bcn.net. To obtain application schedules, call (413) 447-9808 7:30am- 2pm.

**Water quality brochure available.** The Town of Sheffield is offering residents who have private wells a free copy of a new publication, "A Guide to Water Quality Testing for Private Wells," which explains how wells can become contaminated, what tests are recommended, and how often to test your well. Pick up your copy at Town Hall. The brochure was produced by the Environmental Protection Agency New England in cooperation with the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection, UMass Extension and the Massachusetts Association of Health Boards.

## Solutions

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## PLANNING BOARD

The Town of Sheffield Planning Board recently elected officers for the upcoming year: Rene C. Wood, chairman; Frederic Gordon, vice chairman; Daniel N. Moulton, secretary; John Downie, treasurer. Wood was elected delegate and Gordon alternate to the Berkshire Regional Planning Commission as well. Bart Elsbach was recently elected to the Board. F. (Doc) Nourse, Jr., was reappointed as the Board's alternate member.

The Planning Board meets the first and third Tuesday of each month at 7pm in the Carlton French meeting room, first floor of Town Hall. We invite you to attend meetings to learn more about how Sheffield's zoning by-laws work, find out about ongoing and special projects and later this summer, voice your opinion on the proposed Master Plan for Sheffield.

—Rene Wood, Chair

## SHEFFIELD FIRE DEPARTMENT FIRE LOG

—Rick Boardman, Chief

April 6	Alarm at Mt. Everett High School at 3:00pm; in service at 3:12pm.
April 8	Mountain rescue at 12:30am; in service at 1:30am.
April 10	Brush fire at 615 Boardman St. at 11:25am; in service at 12:12pm.
April 10	Outside fire at 665 N. Main St. at 8:16pm; in service at 8:28pm.
April 16	Brush fire at 982 Home Rd at 2:45pm; in service at 3:28pm.
April 20	Brush fire at 88 Hillside Ln. at 11:25am; in service at 12:22 pm.
April 20	Mutual aid for Egremont Fire Dept. at 4:10pm; in service at 8:00pm.
April 25	Lifting assistance at 79 Wells Ln. at 4:50 pm; in service at 5:15 pm.
May 6	Car accident at 9:09pm; in service at 10:18pm.
May 8	Structure fire at 224 Hewins St. at 10:25am; in service 2:30pm.
May 9	Alarm at Berkshire School (burnt toast) at 1:35pm; in service 2:00pm.
May 13	Lifting assistance at 70 Cottage Ln. at 3:17pm; in service at 3:30pm.
May 15	Car accident at 2:50am; in service at 5:05am.
May 16	Alarm at Kolburne School at 9:35am; in service at 9:53am.
May 18	Structure fire at 175 Root Ln. at 4:40am; in service at 7:00am.
May 22	Brush fire (illegal fire) at 88 Hillside Ln. at 7:46pm; in service at 9:03pm.
May 23	Car accident at 11:56am; in service at 12:39pm.
May 27	Alarm at Berkshire School at 12:45pm; in service at 1:04pm.
May 30	Grill fire at 109 Clayton Rd. at 6:01pm; in service at 7:00pm.
June 4	Alarm at Sheffield Plastics at 5:42pm; in service at 6:05pm.
June 7	Alarm at So. Berk. Reg. School District at 2:10pm; in service at 2:16pm.
June 9	Tree on wires at 260 E. Stahl Rd. at 8:38pm; in service at 11:10pm.



## BOARD OF SELECTMAN: EXCERPTS FROM MEETING MINUTES

4/5—After approving minutes through January, the board heard Town Administrator Bob Weitz discuss a letter regarding the cost to “dust off” the Berkshire School Rd. plans for Mass Highway. The board thought the updating should be part of the cost of the job.

Weitz updated the board on figures from the Department of Revenue indicating that a room occupancy tax would have brought in \$22,708 if it had passed in Town Meeting last year. Selectmen Dick Kirchner pointed out it could help defray the increasing cost of the school. He and Janet Stanton voted to place the tax on the town warrant even though it had been turned down in the past. *[And it was again.—The Editors]*

The board voted to add language to the town warrant that would allow expansion of eligibility for senior citizen property tax exemptions and to add an amendment to Article 4.10 of the zoning by-laws to authorize the building inspector to issue building permits to pre-existing non-conforming single- or two-family structures, provided that alterations do not increase the non-conforming nature of the structure.

Weitz read a notice from the Planning Board regarding an application from Susan and Robert Butler, 481 Shunpike Rd., to subdivide their property. Curb cuts were approved for Daniel Lowe on Bears Den Rd. and Ed Ustico and Michael Shields on Hickey Hill Rd.

The board went into executive session to discuss real-estate negotiations.

4/15—The Selectmen voted to accept the town warrant as written.

Town Administrator Weitz mentioned that Annette Habicht would like to know if the town was maintaining Mt. Washington Rd. Highway Superintendent Ronnie Bassett will check when he returns to work.

Weitz updated the board on several items: The plan is being recorded for the industrial park by White Engineering. Steve Seward Landscaping came in with the lowest quote for mowing town properties. Solid waste quotes are coming in—the contract runs out July 1. A report was received regarding the ice dams on the Town Hall roof.

4/25—Town Administrator Weitz updated the board on mail: Vegetation management plans from TEC Associates and the National Grid; a request from Berkshire School for alcoholic beverage licenses for June 4 and 5 (approved); notification of a requirement for a \$25,000 bond for used car dealers. He told the board that Roger Trucking had supplied the lowest proposal for solid waste disposal, and the board voted to award them the contract. Sheryl Lechner of the Berkshire Eagle asked whether Roger Trucking had been sold; the board said the firm had sold only the pickup route part of the business.

Selectman Kirchner requested that Jim Golden receive a letter of appreciation for stepping in when Highway Superintendent Bassett was out.

Kathy Orlando appeared for the Sheffield Land Trust to discuss an application for a recreational trail near Mt. Everett Regional High School and asked for a letter of support from the Selectmen.

The board went into executive session to discuss real-estate negotiations.

5/6—After a discussion of recommendation from the Master Plan Steering Committee and the Berkshire Regional Planning Commission, the board voted to terminate the contract of planning consultant Dufresne-Henry and hire Jeanne Armstrong of Land Use, Inc., in its place. Jeanne Armstrong, who was in the building for a Steering Committee meeting, ap-

peared to answer questions. She asked for the board's leadership in helping pull volunteers together for meetings to complete the plan by the State-mandated deadline of June 30. Tom Tatuszko of Berkshire Regional Planning presented a \$15,000 standard agreement to cover the new consultant's costs. The board agreed and said they wanted to see a schedule for the next eight weeks.

The board questioned why the new season of the Farmers' Market was not brought before the board. Town Administrator Weitz was asked to call a representative to the next meeting.

The board discussed the re-bidding of the Berkshire School Rd. project, which would be opened June 1. The Town may incur additional expense, since Lochner needs to add some items that Mass Highway may or may not pay for.

Chairman David Macy stressed the importance of addressing the Village Green project. He said that Mass Highway has indicated that any changes would have to go through a designer or an engineer.

Vito Valentini, a retired teacher, submitted a letter of interest for appointment to the School Committee.

5/17—Kirchner was voted board chairman for the coming year and Stanton clerk.

Selectman Macy read the list of vacancies for Town boards and committees, and the board voted to advertise in local papers. Paul Sullivan's resignation from the Conservation Commission was mentioned. June Wolfe of the Conservation Commission was present and mentioned that ConCom may be looking to add two additional members. The board thanked Vito Valentini, also present, for his interest in being appointed to the School Committee and said he would be added to the list of candidates. *[For more on appointments see page 17.]*



# village GREEN

The board approved a parade permit for the Ashley Falls Memorial Day parade.

June Wolfe introduced the new manager of the Farmers' Market, Sandra Snyder. Parking was discussed. Wolfe asked who owned the small grass area in front of the Mobil gas station. The board said the State owned the land and could be contacted for permission to post a parking sign. A discussion was held regarding a better location of the market rather than the center of town, as some think it is causing problems getting to the bank, post office, and stores. Wolfe said the idea of having the market where it is was to support local businesses. Tammy Dennis of the Sheffield Market was present and said she liked having the market in town. Using a police officer to direct traffic was not affordable, said Wolfe. The board expressed concern over firemen being able to answer a call, and Wolfe said that a plan is in place to clear the road if there is a call. The board requested that the board, the police department, the fire department and the health inspector be contacted before the market opens in the spring.

Pauline Schumann was present to discuss ideas to help find a location for a new senior center. Tammy Dennis requested permission to add a picnic table to the grassy area in front of her store and to add a bike rack, which the owner of the building, Dana Bartholomew, would help pay for. She promised to keep the area clean. The board pointed out that due to new regulations, there could be no smoking within 10 feet of the building and said the Town would pay for a cigarette receptacle.

Macy noted that there would be a couple of hearings on the Master plan scheduled. He invited Kathy Orlando to update the board, which she did. Stanton requested that the meetings be recorded and shown on local-access cable CTSB-TV for those unable to attend.

Kathy Orlando left a letter from the Sheffield Land Trust regarding conservation issues that are in process and said she would return to answer any questions.

The board went into executive session to discuss real-estate negotiations.

5/24—The board accepted Paul Sullivan's resignation from the Conservation Commission and voted to send a letter of appreciation for his services. The Selectmen discussed grading the Town Park and discussed the possibility of hiring contract help for the Highway Department.

6/7—A hearing was held on the placement of seven telephone poles to serve a new home at 689 S. Egremont Rd. The board approved, after requesting one pole be relocated and requiring all poles to be at least 6 feet from the edge of the pavement.

A letter from A. Joseph Tandet, attorney for Theodore Schiffman of Waddling Dog Pub, Inc., d/b/a Stagecoach Hotel & Restaurant, requested that a liquor license not be issued to an applicant at those premises without a resolution of the claims of Schiffman against the owner.

Mary Palmer, her attorney Louis Timolat, and Marshal and Foltiz Efthimiou were present to discuss the future of The Lantern, the bar in Ashley Falls. Timolat said that Palmer is handling the estate of her brother, Dale Palmer, and the Efthimious have proposed purchasing the establishment. The Efthimious wanted to know if the Town had an issue with the bar reopening. Kirchner explained the process of obtaining a liquor license and summed up the concerns of the neighbors. He suggested the Efthimious contact the chairman of the board of health and the building inspector to make a good effort to start a new business.

Sharon Gregory was asked to update the board on the June 3 Master Plan meeting. Patricia Elsbach and

Sharon Gregory passed out information regarding Sheffield River Day on July 3, and they invited the board to award the prizes.

Selectman Stanton read a letter from State Representative William "Smitty" Pignatelli regarding the recent passage of an amendment that would provide some assistance with the Village Green project if the State Senate accepts the language. The board said Town Administrator Weitz would make a site visit to see if it is feasible to add handicapped parking in the center of town, in response to a letter from Tom and Judi Welch.

The board approved a motion to make the week of June 7-14 "Buckle Up Sheffield Week." Stanton mentioned that there were many speeding cars on Hewins St. and that the Police Dept. had set up a monitor to track speeds. Ellen Rowntree requested a speed monitor be placed on Salisbury Rd.; the board said she should contact the Police Dept.

Wiring Inspector Richard Cappadona asked to increase the electrical permit fee from \$40 to \$45 due to the increase in gasoline prices. The board decided to hold on the request.

The board discussed the purchase of a roadside mower, which the Highway Dept. has been using on a trial basis. The board decided to hold on a motion until the mower was in working condition and that they would like to hire someone to operate it. Vito Valenti, at the meeting, questioned who makes repairs, and the board said that most are done in-house.

Peter Rowntree requested that a list of candidates for the openings on boards and committees be published prior to appointment. Robert Gilpatric was appointed to the Highway Dept.; Shannon R. Blodgett as reserve officer to the Police Dept.; Frederic Gordon, alternate delegate to the Berkshire Regional Planning Commission, among other appointments.

[For more appointments see page 17.]



# organizations & BUSINESSES

## HEALTH CLINIC OPENING & FUNDRAISER

After more than a year of hard work, the Volunteers in Medicine Berkshires clinic is set to open across the street from Guido's in Great Barrington in August. To support the opening, VIM's board of directors is hosting a dessert reception before the Aug. 5 production of Barrington Stage Company's "The

God Committee" at the Consolati Performing Arts Center in Sheffield.

The play by Mark St. Germain, author of last year's "Ears on a Beatle," concerns the life-and-death decisions surrounding an organ transplant and will be followed by discussion of the play's ethical and medical questions with some of the

show's actors and several of the MDs who have been involved with the establishment of VIM Berkshires. The reception is at 6:30pm, the play at 8:00. Tickets are \$50. RSVP by Aug. 1. Make checks payable to VIM Berkshires and send to VIM Berkshires, PO Box 303, Mill River, MA 01244. For more information, call Marion Simon at (413) 644-8939.

## VOLUNTEERS AND VENDORS WANTED FOR FAIRS

The 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Sheffield in Celebration, *Sheffield and the River*, will be held the weekends of September 10-12 and 17-19. With two fairs again this year, there will be twice the fun! There will be food, music, kids activities, vendors and more...

Two fairs also means twice the opportunity for local crafters, artisans, organizations, clubs, vendors and cottage industries to exhibit or sell their goods. If you are

interested in exhibiting or selling at either fair see the details below and on the back of this issue of the Sheffield Times.

The Sheffield Fair will be September 11 from 3-7pm on the Green in the Center of Sheffield. For general inquiries (including music and cars show) or to volunteer, contact co-chair Dave Smith at 229-9956, for food contact June Wolfe at 229-2012, and for exhibi-

tors and vendors contact Nancy Kriegel at 229-7703. And don't forget the vintage and muscle cars.

After a year's hiatus, the Ashley Falls Fair on the Green is back and set for September 18 from 10am to 4pm, with a rain date of September 19. For inquiries or to volunteer contactr Bruce Howden, 229-8481.

Save the dates and look for details next issue including quilt show and other related activities.

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## BUSINESS BRIEFS

**Gret's Magick specializes in hair.** The salon (phone: 229-3120) owned and operated by Gretchen Brannan at the corner of Maple Ave. and Rte 7 is located across from the Sheffield Pub. The business name is on the mailbox, but Gretchen has chosen not to put up a sign in the four years the salon has been open. Instead, she relies on word of mouth and a regular ad in the Shopper's Guide. She says, "There's enough [business] for everybody."

Rather than compete against full-service salons, Gret's Magick specializes in hair—cuts, colors, perms and foils. Gretchen is assisted by Allison Rote, a 17-year-old student on a work-study program. The salon's clientele includes everyone from teens preparing for graduation to a regular contingent of seniors.

The atmosphere is relaxed and cheerful. The décor—moons and stars, with a twig broom on one wall—speaks of Gretchen's Pagan beliefs. She emphasizes that Paganism is simply a benevolent nature religion. "It's about putting out good energy." She says the important thing is to contribute to the community, which she also does more conventionally as a member of Kiwanis.

Gretchen describes her business as "making people feel good about themselves at a reasonable price without a lot of pomp and circumstance." She's always known this was what she wanted to do and at age 15 announced to her parents she wanted to go to hairdressing school. She has been in the business for 39 years, first in Bristol, CT, then moving to Sheffield 12 years ago, working at local salons before opening her own shop.

Gretchen's plans for the future are wide open: "Opportunities are in front of you all the time; I just go where things take me." She adds, "I love what I do—I'm blessed."

—Liz Chaffee

**Teen entrepreneur opens South Main Clothing Outlet.** The new shop, at 500 South Main, south of Sheffield center (phone: 229-8887), carries apparel and accessories for men, women, kids and babies by Timberland, Bill Blass, Abercrombie & Fitch, Gap, Old Navy, DKNY and Tommy Hilfiger, with a collection of Gloria Vanderbilt shoes on the way. New shipments arrive every other day. The shop, which is open seven days a week, shares its building with the Sheffield Collection. The owner (and sole employee, for now) is 18-year-old Keri Houle, a 2003 graduate of Mount Everett. She opened the store on May 3 of this year.

Keri is modest and matter-of-fact about her accomplishments. She explains that after graduating from Mt. Everett, she took business management courses on the Internet, then spent several weeks working with a business planner. She obtained a Small Business Administration loan through Berkshire Bank, then lined up suppliers by doing Internet searches and scouring the phone book. Keri chose this business because "I've always worked in retail and had a love for clothing—I



18 year old Keri Houle opened South Main Clothing Outlet in May after receiving a Small Business Administration loan from Berkshire Bank.

figured Sheffield needed something a little different."

Keri says some customers come in expecting a thrift store, but everything at the Outlet is brand new, and the majority is first quality. A few carefully-screened irregulars make it to the display racks at a discount. Keri reports one of her most popular items is "Baby's First Bath Bucket," a collection of animal-themed terry towels, washcloths and hand puppets in decorative gift buckets.

Keri looks forward to a bigger space and more inventory. She describes her target customer as "everybody!"

—LC

**Sheffield Collection offers custom interior design work.** The first thing you notice about the shop at 500 South Main St. are the bolts of decorator fabric as tall as a person. The Sheffield Collection (229-8552) specializes in Ralph Lauren textile seconds, and they are the only local store authorized to carry Rachel Ashwell's Shabby Chic collection. The store also has a wide variety of accessories and gifts—retro metal signs, crystal furniture pulls, kitchenware, fine soaps, bath crystals and some antique furnishings and vintage linens.

The old and the new are mixed in cozy vignettes instead of on conventional shelves—owner Boni Dupont explains that with the building's high ceilings, large displays would have looked cold and impersonal.

The Sheffield Collection, 11 years old, now shares a building with the South Main Clothing Outlet (Boni is step-aunt of Outlet owner Keri Houle). It was previously housed in a small shop in the barn behind the house next door. Boni's daughter, Nichole Dupont Leblanc, helps out part time. The company has its own workroom and also works with subcontractors such as upholsterers and a furniture company in South Carolina. Boni proudly lifts a chair cushion to show the "Sheffield Collection" logo.

The store also carries the "Beads of Paradise" collection, one-of-a-kind works by Mary Ellen O'Brien, a Sheffield jewelry maker and furniture artist. —LC



# organizations & BUSINESSES

## HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWS

**Challenge grant announced.** A challenge grant to retire the mortgage on the Old Stone Store has been offered to the Sheffield Historical Society by an anonymous Sheffield couple. If successful, the dollar-for-dollar challenge will yield the \$24,000 needed to retire the indebtedness on the historic structure.

"This is a very generous gift, and we hope people in the community will help the Society achieve the match," said Wray Gunn, president of the Society.

The Old Stone Store was purchased by the Society to preserve it and make it available for a range of community and Society activities. The building has been used extensively since it reopened for exhibits, children's educational programs, and meeting space, and it serves as an information center for the town. Most of the renovation cost of approximately \$250,000 has already been raised, leaving a balance of \$24,000 on the mortgage.

People interested in supporting the effort are invited to send gifts to: Sheffield Historical Society, Box 747, Sheffield, MA 01257, with a

notation "Old Stone Store mortgage."

**Tag sale and silent auction.** The "Pieces of History" sale will be held Sat., July 10, at the Sheffield American Legion Hall, 9am-3pm. Items from around the world have been donated: a 10-day stay in a private home on a Greek Island, a watercolor of a French village (c. 1930) by David Humphreys, a Royal Crown Derby Imari bowl, Italian glass, French yarn, and more from Venice, Japan, England, Burma, Mexico, and Germany. From the U.S. come household items such as furniture, linens, silver and glass, a vintage beige cutwork dress (with provenance), art work, and certificates for meals, movie tickets, wine selections, travel and vacation arrangements. Proceeds from the sale benefit the educational programs of the Sheffield Historical Society. Lunch will be served. For more information, call co-chairs Rene Wood (229-2875) or Jim Miller (229-8668).

**Pig roast.** Scott Ryan and the Pigge Roast are coming back to Sheffield on Aug. 28. The Second Annual

The Sheffield Historical Society is located on Route 7 in the center of Sheffield. Tours of the Dan Raymond House are available Thursday through Saturday 11am to 4pm. The new exhibition in the Dan Raymond house is "Sheffield's Chapeaus: Hats from A Bygone Era." The Mark Dewey Research Center is open Monday and Friday 1:30 to 4pm and by appointment. For further information on Society programs, contact the Sheffield Historical Society, 159-161 Main Street, P.O. Box 747, Sheffield, MA 01257, 413-229-2694 or email [shs@sheffieldhistory.org](mailto:shs@sheffieldhistory.org).

Pigge Roast will be held at the Sheffield Legion Hall at Cook Rd. and Route 7 from 3 to 6pm. At 3 Marion Whitman and friends will hold a blueberry pie taste-off. At 3:45 serving will begin. On the menu are pork or fried turkey and all the fixings, baked beans, salads, corn-on-the-cob, and blueberry pie. Barbara Delmolino has brought together a group of crafts people who will be exhibiting and selling all day on the grounds of the Legion Hall. Adults \$15, children \$8, children under 8 free. Adult take-outs are available.

## SCOUT NEWS

On May 21-23, Boy Scout Troop 28 participated in the Spring Camporee at the Hancock Shaker Village. The activities included a chance to hike the historic Hancock Trail and various competitions. The troop came in second. The new patrol tied for first in the cooking competition with their salmon dinner. The older scouts came in second in the overall patrol method evaluation. Nine of the boys and two leaders hiked the Hancock Trail, earning the patch and medal. All in all, it was a successful and enjoyable camporee. The weather even cooperated by only raining at night.

The July activity is summer camp at Chesterfield Scout Reserva-

tion. Some of the older boys are going out as counselors in training, while the rest of the troop will do the regular camping bit. In August the older boys will be going to Maine, to spend some time canoeing the Saco River, while the younger scouts will do a hike and camping trip on Mt Washington.

To raise money for next year's trip to the National Jamboree at Fort A. P. Hill, VA, the troop is selling picnic tables, as seen at the Sheffield Farmers' Market on Fridays. Tables cost \$115 for the six-foot model and \$140 for the eight-foot. Orders may be placed with the unit at the Market or by calling William Capasse, 229-3304. —George Olen

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## KIWANIS NEWS

Kiwanians enjoyed three celebrations recently—the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Dinner at the Egremont Country Club 5/22, a cookout 5/25 honoring the Monument Mountain High School Key Club, and the annual Scholarship Banquet on 6/1 honoring most of the 35 recipients of the \$25,000 awarded this year.

**Golf and baseball.** Thanks to all who supported our recent golf tournament at the Egremont Country Club. The event has become a major fundraiser because of community interest and the hard work of the Golf Committee. The regular Little League season came to a close last

month. The Minor League players had a “fun day” at the Sheffield Town Park on 6/19, and the All-Star game was 6/27 at the Mill River Field. The All-Stars keep playing over the summer, as do the two Babe Ruth teams and an American Legion squad the Kiwanis sponsors.

**Garden.** Patty Hardisty and a group of planters from Kiwanis and the Key Club established a new perennial bed at the Mount Everett school grounds.

**Coming events.** The major function for Kiwanis during the summer is bar-tending, food sales and parking for the Berkshire Choral Festival, which runs for five weeks start-

ing July 4...The food tent at the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration of the Hope Fire Dept. of Great Barrington on July 11 will be manned by folks from Kiwanis, along with VFW and Rotary. Dana Bartholomew and Crystal Dumont have been our reps to the committee...The annual steak roast will be held at the Sheffield Town Park on Sat., Aug. 14...Kiwanis will be part of Sheffield in Celebration festivities, to be held in Sheffield center Sept. 11 and in Ashley Falls Sept. 18.

—Richard L. Goodwin

*The Sheffield Kiwanis meets weekly, Tuesday at 6:30pm at Limey's.*

## BERKSHIRE SCHOOL TEACHER GETS FULBRIGHT

Brenda G. Van Deusen, Chinese language teacher at Berkshire School, is one of 15 K-12 Chinese teachers in the nation selected for a Fulbright grant by the Chinese Language Association of Secondary-Elementary Schools. The group will

spend the month of July in China enrolled in workshops, seminars, and conferences conducted in Mandarin.

Upon her return, Van Deusen will present the curriculum unit she developed in China to the foreign language departments at Berkshire

School as well as to Simon's Rock College of Bard in Gt. Barrington.

A graduate of Hamilton College with a BA in East Asian Studies, Van Deusen has led the Chinese language program at Berkshire School since September 2003.

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## PROFILE: WILKINSON EXCAVATING

Joe Wilkinson & Sons Excavating, Inc., was founded by Joe Wilkinson in 1972. Darleen, his wife of 31 years, runs the office and handles the bookkeeping. Their sons Joe, Todd and Kevin are partners in the business (they have three other children, Keith, Paula and Michelle).

Wilkinson's, located at 1551 Boardman St (229-7711), just down a driveway from Joe and Darleen's home, is one of the largest employers in the town of Sheffield, employing 30 people as office personnel, drivers and equipment operators. Their senior employee is Alan Ziegler, who has been with them for 25 years. Many drivers have been with the company more than 15 years. Joe says, "I pay them well, and they stay. They're really valuable—they know what's going on."

The company operates within about a 20-mile radius. They do residential site work, which consists of everything from clearing the land and digging the foundation and septic to laying underground power cable and putting in the driveway. They also do commercial site work, such as for the new Comfort Inn in Gt Barrington.

They also work with local water companies in Sheffield, Great Barrington, Housatonic and Egremont doing repairs and installing lines. Last year they laid a 3,000 foot water line in Egremont. A few years ago they put in a sewage treatment plant at Berkshire School, and they are now working on an Astroturf field for the school. Joe's involvement is about 50 percent fieldwork and 50 percent office work and bidding. He describes his start in 1972 as "just me and a backhoe." He had no prior experience in the field—it started as a side business and gradually worked into a full-time job.

A few years ago Wilkinson's worked on the re-landscaping project in the center of Sheffield—new sidewalks, curbing, landscaping and streetlights. The original sidewalk was to be blacktop, but Joe thought brick would look better, so he installed it at no extra charge.

Joe and Darleen have participated in the community for many years. Joe serves on the Town Park Commission and is a friend of the Kiwanis, helping out with fund-raisers. Darleen is a Trustee of the Old Parish Church and says, "I volunteer Joe for all kinds of projects." She served for five years on the Volunteer Ambulance Squad and the First Responders before retiring from those duties to spend more time with their grandchildren.

### PIECES OF HISTORY Sheffield Historical Society Silent Auction & Tag Sale Saturday, July 10, 2004

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1950s Zenith Bakelite radio

11" Royal Crown Derby bowl (Imari pattern)

French Bistro Set

Fitz and Floyd Coffee Set

Vintage cookbooks

Pewter collection

12" Harvard Tercentenary Wedgwood bowl, 1943

1930's David Humphreys watercolor

French Faience dishes

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### Fire wipes out everything

The business was nearly destroyed by a fire that started at 4:30 AM on December 22, 2000. Darleen says, "I looked and my window was all orange." Everything burned. The fire burned the cabs right off the dump trucks—one picture in the Wilkinsons' photo album shows nothing left but a front grill and a heap of rubble. The cause of the fire was never determined—it may have started with a battery charger for the diesel trucks. The fire inspector told Joe that temperatures reached 2,500 degrees. Even the toilets melted. The extreme heat came from the burning truck tires and the fuel in the trucks—once the fuel lines melted, the spilled diesel fed the fire.

Despite the material devastation, no one was hurt. Joe recounts how they got back in business in just one month "with a lot of support from the people in town." Before the site had even cooled, a parade of pickup trucks came to help rebuild. Family and friends, neighbors and business associates, 30 to 50 people came every day. Police Chief McGarry took a week off work to help with the rebuilding, and some of Joe's retired friends worked the whole month. Insurance covered part of the damages, but the labor was 100 percent volunteer.

Joe Wilkinson says, "You just can't build this in a month, but they did. I've given a lot to people and to Sheffield over the years. It was just unbelievable, the



turnout that came.”

At the end of the process, the family had a huge party in the rebuilt shop for all the participants. Darleen says, “The story ended up to be not a fire story, but a people story.”

### The company today

The sloping grounds of Wilkinson Excavating looks like a giant’s toy box. The shop is like a very large truck garage, full of equipment. There’s a new secondary garage and an assortment of equipment sheds. They have 80 pieces of equipment, including six Kenworth dump trucks (those are the giant sapphire-blue trucks you see around town), 13 pickup trucks, one trailer truck, and “a ton” of backhoes and bulldozers. They have nine excavators (picture a huge backhoe with tank treads) at \$200,000 apiece.

Wilkinson’s has the only directional drill in Berkshire County. Horizontal directional drilling has become a big part of their business. A directional drill lets you go under roads, walls and patios, instead of digging them up. Such work is pretty much the only thing for which they travel out of the area—the day I visited, they were drilling in Torrington, CT, and next they are scheduled to do a 3,000-foot job in North Brookfield, MA.

In one shed is their new stump grinder, a big engine on caterpillar treads with a circular carbide blade in front. The operator stands next to the machine and guides it with a control panel, which swivels out on an arm. Joe says they don’t get a huge demand for this because other companies offer this service, but it’s handy because it can thin a wooded area more neatly than an excavator. What looks like giant concrete building blocks are actually septic tanks, which they keep in stock. Down back is a cluster of oil tanks they have removed for customers. When they have enough saved up, they haul them to a disposal center in Chicopee for proper disposal. Oil tanks require a paper trail to prevent illegal dumping. Joe says they do a lot of oil tanks.

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### The parade float

The Wilkinson family, friends and neighbors are building a parade float for the July 11 parade in Gt Barrington celebrating 150 years of the Hope Fire Dept. They had built an elaborate Boardman Street float for Sheffield’s Bicentennial parade back in 1983 and had so much fun they decided to do it again. Joe says, “We’re the only master float builders in Sheffield.”

The new float, titled “Sheffield’s Tribute to Firemen,” takes up 70 feet in the company shop. Joe and Darleen emphasize that the float work is separate from the business—it’s a way for people to get together. Darleen says it’s the same sense of camaraderie as the folks who helped after the fire.

For a while now, Tuesday night has been Float Night at Wilkinsons, with 25 people or so coming to work on the project. I’ve been sworn to secrecy about the details, but I’m allowed to say that the float includes a water feature. Darleen says of Joe, “When he does something, he does it 100 percent.”

### A Sheffield-focused future

Joe Wilkinson has no plans to expand the company or branch out into new equipment—in fact, he says they have so much business that he often doesn’t sleep at night. “We’re big enough,” he says, “We’re very busy—there’s a lot of work in this area right now.”

After decades in the business, Joe still finds the work interesting. “Every job’s a little different,” he says. “Even every septic is a little different.”—Liz Chaffee

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# organizations & BUSINESSES

## LAND TRUST ANNOUNCES TRAIL PROGRAM

Responding to a need for trails and outdoor opportunities expressed by the community, the Sheffield Land Trust is enhancing its work for recreational and educational purposes. In addition to improving the trails on the properties it owns over the next several years, there will be a new focus area around Mt. Everett and Undermountain Elementary Schools, where the opportunity exists to link trails on private, school and town land.

"A wonderful gift from Janet Dohoney is providing a foundation for this new initiative," said Kathy Orlando, Executive Director for Land Protection. Ms. Dohoney is donating 20 acres that her late husband, Judge James Dohoney, owned off of Berkshire School Road (just west of Bears Den Road).

The property is a mix of upland and wetlands with a trail running along its eastern bound.

The existing trail, which continues off the property, has been used by Mt. Everett's cross-country runners for years, added Orlando, "We are thrilled to be able to secure that use for the future and to make it available for general community recreational use as well."

The land, abutted on two sides by town land, is also ideally situated for use as an outdoor classroom by the Southern Berkshire Regional School District, whose campus is just across the road. Several classes have already made use of the property and SLT will be partnering with the school on stewardship activities, and plans to improve the existing trail and eventually extend it and create interpretive signage. According to Dohoney, the link with the school is something that would have pleased her husband who was a "strong proponent" for children.



Senator Andrea Nuciforo and Sally Cook, founding member of the Sheffield Land Trust, at the Trust's 15<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Annual Meeting on June 19. The celebration was held at Cook's property, which she is conserving. Nuciforo, Wesley Ward of The Trustees of Reservations, George Wislocki president emeritus of Berkshire Natural Resources Council, Cook and SLT president John Wightman spoke on the importance of land conservation historically, now and for the future of our communities.

SLT is looking forward to helping to meet Sheffield's recreational needs through this new program and will continue to work with property owners in the area to create a network of walking trails for the community to enjoy.

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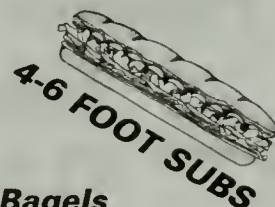


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# BARTHOLOMEW'S COBBLE PROGRAMS

**Volunteer work parties.** *Thurs, through October, 9-11:30am.* Help clear the Cobble of exotic invasive species. Learn how to identify and conserve our native species. Free.

**Natural history canoe trip on the Housatonic.** *Sun, through Aug., 8:30-11:30am.* Paddle the winding Housatonic with a naturalist. Bring a hat, sunscreen, water, and binoculars. Buy a family membership the day of the tour and get 2 adult tickets for the price of one. Preregister. Members: adult \$20, child (10-16) \$10. Nonmembers: adult \$30, child (10-16) \$15.

**Awesome insects.** *Sat., July 17 & Aug. 28, 10:30-12pm.* Search for beautiful, bountiful insects. Strictly catch and release! Led by a grown-up naturalist with a child-like mind. Long pants and socks. Preregister.

**Ferns of the Cobble.** *Sun., July 4 & 11, 1:30-3:00pm.* Learn about the Cobble's famous ferns. Handouts and hand lenses provided. Not appropriate for children. Preregister. Members: \$6. Nonmembers: \$8.

**Animal tracks.** *Sun., July 18, & Aug. 22, 1:00-3:00pm.* Learn to identify tracks and make plaster casts (molds provided).

**Puppet show and walk.** *Sat., July 24, 11:00-12:30pm.* Meredyth Babcock as Dr. Marmalaid travels the world helping animals in distress. Children assist with hugs and kind words. After the show, explore the Ledges Trail with Dr. Marmalaid. Preregister. Members: adult \$8, child (4-16) \$4, family \$20. Nonmembers: adult \$10, child (4-16) \$5, family \$25.

**Canoe trip: Covered Bridge to Bartholomew's Cobble.** *Sat., July 31, 8:30-2:30pm.* Offered jointly by The Trustees of Reservations and the Housatonic Valley Association. Explore an extraordinary 9-mile stretch of the Housatonic with 2 naturalist/guides. Bring a picnic lunch. Preregister. TTOR and HVA Members: adult \$40, child (12-16) \$25. Nonmembers: adult \$60, child (12-16) \$35. Call for information.

**Live birds of prey with Tom**

**Ricardi.** *Sat., Aug. 7, 10:30-12:00pm.* Wildlife rehabilitator and former state wildlife biologist Tom Ricardi shows his collection of hawks, falcons, owls and a bald eagle. Preregister. Members: adult \$8, child (4-16) \$4, family, \$20. Nonmembers: adult \$10, child (4-16) \$5, family \$25.

**Butterflies, dragonflies and damselflies with ecologist Jose Garcia.** *Sat., Aug. 14, 10:30-12:00pm.* Learn how to identify several species. Pre-register.

**Snake search and frog find.** *Sat., Aug. 21, 10:30-12pm.* Search the Cobble with a wide-eyed naturalist guide.

**Summer wildflower walk.** *Sun., Aug. 29, 1:30-3pm.* Through fields and forests with a naturalist guide to see what's blooming. Preregister.

*Programs meet at the Cobble on Weatogue Rd. in Ashley Falls unless otherwise specified. Members attend free or at a reduced rate. Unless noted, members: adult \$4, child (4-16) \$4, family \$12. Nonmembers: adult \$6, child (4-16) \$6, family \$18. Details: 229-8600.*



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## Real-estate transfers

### April

- 2 Lloyd H. and Lisa S. Busch to Winthrop F. Barrett, property at 89 Ashley Falls Rd, \$60,000.
- 2 Suzanne Robbins to Bears Den Homes, LLC, property at Bears Den Rd, \$124,000.
- 5 Peter Lawrence Handlowich to Thomas A. Hyman, General Partner of Hyland Country Investments I, property at 52 and 60 Old Joe Rd, \$435,000.
- 5 William L. and Judith A. Perry to Michael J. and Terrie L. Dagrue, property at South Undermountain Rd, Transfer.
- 7 Danial L. Avchen to Leslee G. Carsewell, property at 942 County Rd, Transfer.
- 9 John A. James and Katherine G. Ness to Gordon K. Travers and Elizabeth J. Beautyman, property at 282 East Main St, \$700,000.
- 9 Michael J. Van Leesten and Beth A. Merkin to William M. Powell and Gail Schargel, property at 367 Veeley Rd, \$770,000.
- 13 Thomas E. and Elizabeth R. Whaley to Thomas E. Whaley, property at 508 Polikoff Rd, Transfer.
- 14 Robert D. Mercurio to Robert D. Mercurio Trust, property at 1160 Bow Wow Rd, Transfer.
- 15 Michael Borruso to Thomas W. Candee, property at County Rd, \$140,000.
- 20 Edith Gilson to Edith M. Gilson and Bernard K. Roos, Trustees of the Gilson Nominee Trust, property at 296 South Main St, Transfer.
- 23 John H. and Mildred M. Smith to Elyce Jacobson, property at 905 West Rd, \$620,000.
- 23 Kathleen Immerman to Thomas and Susan Schwarz, property at 43 Birch Mountain Ln, \$725,000.
- 26 Richard A and Katheryn L. MacDowell, to William E. Jr. and Amanda M. Goewey, property at 77 Railroad St, \$187,000.
- 29 Ronald G. and Candace Eaton Lindner to Robert S. Segalla, property at Hewins St, \$67,000.
- 30 Oliver C. and Sharon L. Palma to Hyland Country Investments, Inc., property at Armory Ln, \$95,000.

### May

- 8 Victor Hazen to Tanya Buckner, property at Shun Pike Rd, \$48,500.
- 8 Victor Hazen to Paul Buckner, property at Shun Pike Rd, \$49,000.
- 12 Anna Leffingwell to Russell J. Leffingwell, property at 299 Lime Kiln Rd, Transfer.
- 14 Mildred Gertrude and Marcel Tenenbaum to Marcel and Mildred Gertrude Tenenbaum, co-trustees, property at Cooper Hill Rd, less than \$100.
- 14 Daniel J. Lowe to Daniel J. and Michelle L. Lowe, property at Bears Den Rd, Transfer.
- 14 Richard C. Wuori, Laurie B. Pshenishny, William L. And Ruth L. Wuori to William L. and Ruth L. Wuori, property at 1396 County Rd, Transfer.
- 14 William L. and Ruth L. Wuori to Kurt W. Syer, property at 1396 County Rd, \$262,000.
- 17 Jack Bode to Jack A. Bode and Penny J. Dollard, property at 726 County Rd, Transfer.
- 18 Jack E. Houghton Jr., trustee re: Madsen, Laurence I., to Gregory A. Polanski, property at Polikoff Rd, \$70,000.
- 19 Russell J. O'Connor to Gregg S. Massini, property at Clayton Rd, \$75,000.
- 20 Audrey R. Cruikshank to Donald F. and Audrey R. Cruikshank, property at 525 Hewins St, Transfer.
- 20 William L. and Judith A. Perry to The Nature Conservancy, property at South Undermountain Rd, \$170,000.
- 21 Vivian B. Holmes to Derek K. Holmes, property at Oak St, Transfer.
- 21 John R. and Joan H. Hanlon to John R. Hanlon, Jr., property at Shunpike Rd, Gift.
- 21 Nicholas J. and Laurie B. Pshenishny to Michelle C. Lipkin and Frank R. Ciulla, property at 51 Woodbeck Ridge Rd, \$565,000.
- 26 William W. and Virginia S. Markham and Zbigniew F. and Rose L. Glaszcz to Joseph W. Glaszcz, property at Home Rd, Transfer.
- 28 Beverly M. Kimball to David Dabill and Robin Bardolia, property at 400 Bow Wow Rd, \$725,000.
- 28 Philip C. and Edgar S. Boardman and Phyllis H. Joyce to Philip C. and Barbara E. Boardman, Phyllis H. Joyce and Edgar S. and Carole Boardman, property at Hewins St, Transfer.
- 28 Rita M. Chittenden, Trustee to Allen Industrial Park, LLC, property at 1375 North Main St, \$180,000.



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# calendar PAGE

Page numbers are given after event if there is a write up.

## July

- 2 Jeffrey Folmer, Bushnell-Sage Library, 2pm (p15)
- 3 Sheffield River Day (p7)
- 3 Sheffield Pottery Open House
- 4 INDEPENDENCE DAY
- 5 Senior Center Closed
- 10 Sheffield Historical Society Pieces of History, Tag Sale & Silent Auction, American Legion Hall, 9-3
- 10 Cy Coleman Cabaret, Barrington Stage Co., BSC StudioSpace, 10:30pm (p10)
- 12 Village People Concert, Barrington Stage Co., TACPAC, 8pm (p10)
- 14 Household hazardous waste drop, Gt. Barrington Transfer Station, 4-7pm (p17)
- 16 Foot Care Clinic, Senior Center, 9am
- 24 Household hazardous waste drop, Stockbridge Recycling Center, 9-11am (p17)
- 26-29 Vacation Bible School, Old Parish Church (p13)
- 26-30 Vacation Bible School, Our Lady of the Valley (p13)
- 31 William Finn Cabaret, Barrington Stage Co., BSC StudioSpace, 10pm (p10)

## August

- 1 Real estate taxes due
- 5 Volunteers in Medicine reception, TACPAC, 6:30pm (p22)
- 13 Sheffield Times Deadline
- 14 Kiwanis Steak Roast (p25)
- 14 Household Hazardous Waste drop, Otis Transfer Station, 9-11am (p17)
- 25 Last day to register for State Primary (p18)
- 28 Pigge Roast, Sheffield Historical Society, 3-6pm (p24)
- 28 Household hazardous waste drop, Lenox DPW, 9-11am (p24)

## September

- 6 LABOR DAY
- 11 Sheffield Fair, Village Green, 3-7pm (p22)
- 17 Senior Summit, TBA (p11)
- 18 Ashley Falls Fair, on the Green, 10am-4pm (p22)

**SEE ALSO:** Churches & Services, p. 13 ♦ Library, p. 14-15 ♦ Cobble, p. 29 ♦ Historical Society, p. 24 ♦ Barrington Stage, p. 10

## ONGOING CALENDAR ITEMS

(Meetings or events that occur on a less than weekly basis are noted by number - i.e. "1<sup>st</sup>", "3<sup>rd</sup>" indicates meetings the first and third times that day occurs in the month.

\* indicates appointment needed.

### Mondays:

- Food Assistance Program, Old Parish Church, 9-10:30am (p3)
- Board of Selectmen, Town Hall, 7pm, 1<sup>st</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>
- Board of Health, Town Hall, 7pm, 2<sup>nd</sup>

### Tuesdays:

- Children's Story Hour, Library, 10am
- Building Inspector, Town Hall, 6pm - 8:30pm
- Ashley Falls Historic District Commission, Town Hall, 6:30pm, 2<sup>nd</sup>
- National Alliance for the Mentally Ill Support Group, Fairview Hospital Library, 6:30pm, 4<sup>th</sup>
- Planning Board, Town Hall, 7pm, 1<sup>st</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>
- Industrial Development Commission, Town Hall, 7:30pm, last
- Kiwanis Club, Limey's Restaurant, 6:30pm

### Wednesdays:

- Building Inspector, Town Hall, 7:30am - 12:30pm

### Thursdays:

- Parent-Child Playgroup, Grace Bible Church, 9:30-11:30
- \*Blood Pressure Clinic, Dewey Hall/Senior Center, 9am-12pm, 2<sup>nd</sup>
- Conservation Commission, Town Hall, 7pm, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>

### Fridays:

- Farmer's Market, Old Parish Parking Lot, 4-7

### Saturdays:

- Contra Dancing, Sheffield Grange, Rte 7, 8:30pm, 4<sup>th</sup>

### Sundays:

- Men's Group, Old Parish, 7:45am, 2<sup>nd</sup> (p.11)

## SENIOR CENTER CALENDAR

*See also the ongoing listings*

There are no physical fitness classes or COA meetings in July & August  
July 5: Center will be closed  
July 16: Foot care clinic, 9am

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- ☐ Volunteer for the Ashley Falls Fair

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